

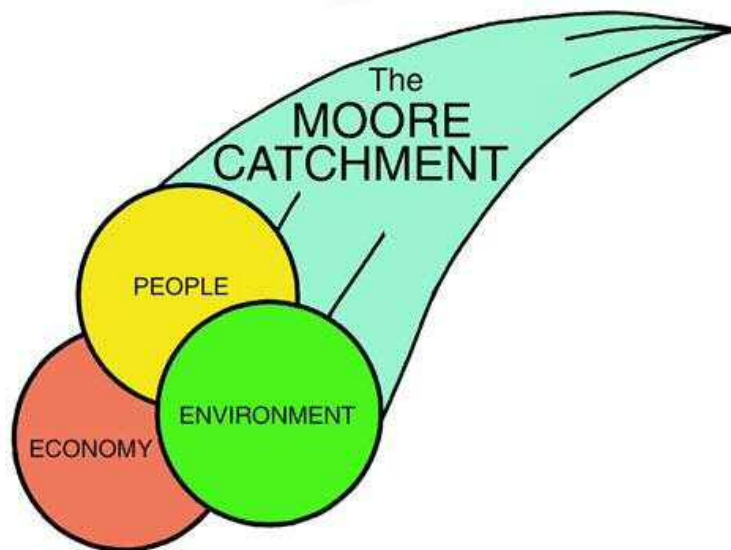
Moore Catchment Council

Report of the

Futures Workshop

and Recommendations

Is financial diversification for MCC a real possibility or just a dream?



held at Moora Recreation Centre on

Monday 21st May 2012

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Executive Summary

The workshop held in Moora on May 21st 2012 brought together community and government representatives with an interest in the work of the Moore Catchment Council. Presentations included an overview of the Moore River and its Catchments; the history of the Moore Catchment Council; and grants received and projects completed by the MCC. Discussions were held to draw out the major issues from each of these presentations, as well as to identify values, possible commercial undertakings, governance and future points of focus for the MCC.

Issues facing the Moore River and its catchment include the changing nature of the River, e.g., sedimentation, drainage changes, salinity; the lack of research on the River, its catchments, usage, needs, etc.; and associated with this, inadequate monitoring systems to identify changes and needs as they emerge. Additional to the need for research and monitoring, it was noted that communication and education of users, residents and visitors throughout the catchment region is needed to secure engagement and responsible usage of the Moore River system.

Issues facing the Moore Catchment Council include: The need to secure a wider range of revenue options to reduce dependence on grant funding; the need for its operations to be professional, with sound financial and grant administration; The desire to remain independent; The need to confirm its focus as a natural resource management organisation; The need for MCC to attract more members and volunteers and to be a voice for the Moore River and its catchments; and The need to consider changes to the Committee structure to improve governance. Having operated for over 15 years and expended over \$4 million in grant funds, these issues need addressing to secure an effective and long-term future for MCC.

Values identified were: Appreciation of the River and its catchment; Sound environmental management; Protection of the River its catchment; and Openness, accessibility and involvement for members and supporters.

Future areas of focus identified were: To protect and preserve the Moore River and its catchment; Encourage more research and monitoring to understand the profile and needs of the Moore River system; Undertake lobbying, being a voice for the river and its catchment; Educate stakeholders; Lift MCC's profile, including growing the membership base; Promote respectful, appropriate use of the River and its catchment, whether social or economic/industrial/agricultural; Restructure the Committee of the MCC to a smaller member-elected group; and Develop additional funding streams by identifying initiatives that fit within the aims and values of the MCC and can be provided on a fee-for-service basis. A suggested action plan has been drawn up for these future areas of focus, and it will be the task of the organisation to distil which of these actions best suit the MCC's current needs and can be effectively implemented.

Commercial options identified include: To be an honest broker in Carbon Trading; Environmental offset management; Waste management; Project management for environmental issues; Management of roadside revegetation; Monitoring biodiversity; Biosecurity project management; and Events relating to NRM (educational, social).

Improvements to the **committee structure** include: Amend the constitution to discontinue the current committee structure of two representatives per shire; instead, Consider appointing two shire representatives; Move to a committee and office bearers/executive who are elected by the members; and Develop agreed reporting and consultation procedures with shires and other government stakeholders, to ensure they have input and are up to date on the work of MCC.

The workshop affirmed the importance and contribution to date of the Moore Catchment Council, and confirmed the value of it broadening its operations and revenue streams, revising its governance structure, and having it take a leading role in the oversight and management of the Moore River system.

1 Introduction to the Moore Catchment Council

1.1 Identity

The Moore Catchment Council (MCC) is an incorporated association that undertakes natural resource management projects with the Moore River catchment area. The Moore River drainage system covers an extensive area of land, linking the Shires of Gingin, Dandaragan, Victoria Plains, Moora, Coorow, Dalwallinu, Carnamah and Perenjori. The Moore Catchment is one of four sub-regions of the Northern Agricultural Region (NAR), along with the Yarra Yarra, West Midlands, and Greenough.

The NAR is overseen by the Northern Agricultural Catchment Council (NACC), the body that administers most of the natural resource management funding for the Moore Region. Representation on the Moore Catchment Council is drawn from community and local governments from the sub-region.

1.2 Objects of the MCC:

Operating since the mid-1990's the Moore Catchment Council is an incorporated association, with the following objects, taken from the September 2011 revision of its constitution:¹

3.1 The objects of the group are to work with the community and natural resource agencies to coordinate integrated land and water management actions within the Moore River Catchment such that:

- (a) The stewardship of natural resources ensures a continuing yield of economic, social and environmental benefits;
- (b) There is fair and equitable access to natural resources, while sharing the cost burden associated with resource use, for both present and future generations; and
- (c) That economic efficiency is balanced by responsiveness to the environmental and social costs associated with the use of limited resources.

3.2 This is to be achieved by:

- (a) Working with Statutory Government Bodies, other natural resource agencies and other stakeholder groups concerned with long term benefit of the region
- (b) Embracing the concept that water and land are the basic elements relating to health and development of the region;
- (c) Working within the natural boundaries of the Moore River Catchment being mindful of social boundaries
- (d) Promoting land and water conservation practices and sustainable land use. Taking into account:-
 - All the tributaries in catchment (617)
 - Both surface and ground water systems
 - The various soil types and their current stability
 - The natural flora and fauna – Biodiversity – of the catchment
 - The need to encourage tax credits and non-government funding to the catchment
 - Salinity action initiatives
- (e) Promoting sustainable coastal and estuary development.

The objectives of the current Business Plan (2010) are contained in *Appendix A*.

¹ Excerpt from Constitution 4th version, approved at MCC meeting September 2011

1.3 Mission, Vision, Philosophy and Role

Mission Statement: The Moore Catchment Council is a community body elected from the sub-region to represent the community interest in Natural Resource Management issues to the communities of the Moore River Catchment and the Northern Agricultural Catchment Council.

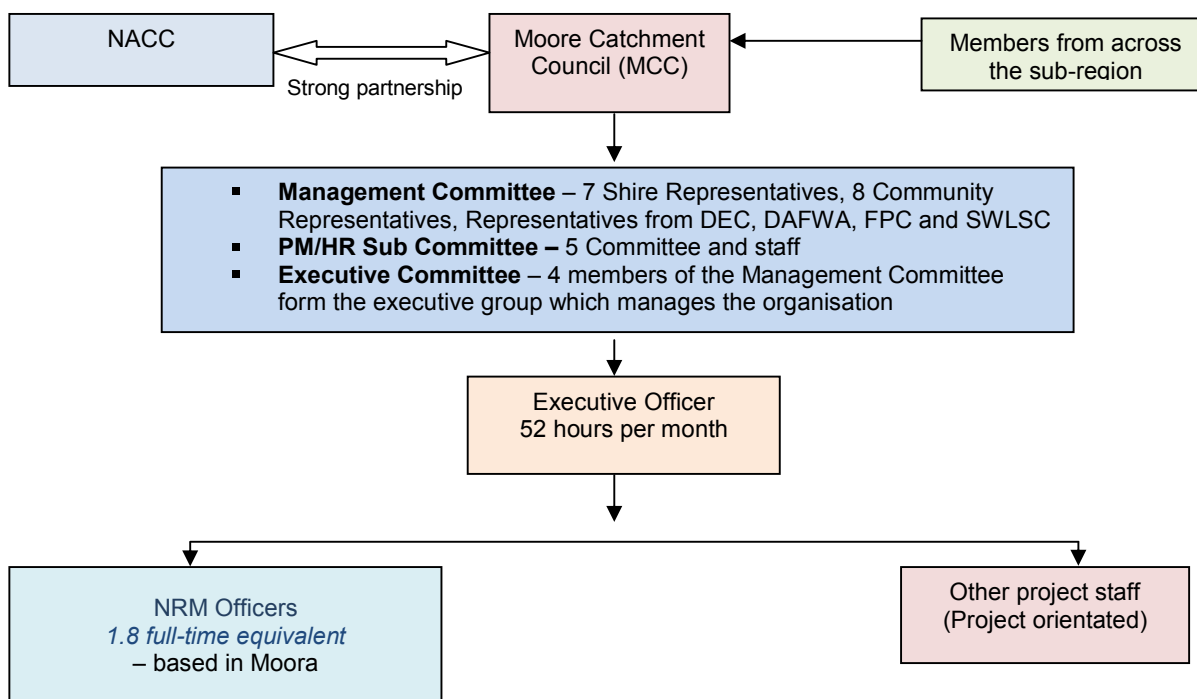
The vision of the Moore Catchment Council is that there will be a stronger link between people, the economy and the environment.

The philosophy of the Moore Catchment Council is to protect and continue to enhance our natural resources so we have something of value to pass on to our children.

The role of the Moore Catchment Council is to promote integrated catchment management and to co-ordinate efforts in the river catchment to get the most effective action on the ground.²

1.4 Structure of the Moore Catchment Council

The Moore Catchment Council is a not for profit group whose membership is majority made up of volunteers. Below is a diagram outlining its structure.³



2 Purpose of the Workshop

In early years, the MCC (and its precursors) were dependent on state government support; for much of its recent history the MCC has been fully dependent on grant funding, most of which has been delivered in recent years via the Northern Agricultural Catchment Council. Though grant funding has been much appreciated and well-used, there are **inherent weaknesses in total reliance on grant funds**:

- They are **time specific** – there is a fixed amount of time during which the grant funds must be expended. Longer-term initiatives, which NRM often involves, are not well-

² Source: www.moorecatchment.org.au, Mission

³ Source: Helen Watkins, EO, MCC

supported by grant funds. Even where it is understood that future rounds of the grant concerned will be offered, organisations must still compete for these grants and have no guarantee of success and on-going funding.

- They are **project specific** – grants generally come from government agencies, and are targeted at specific natural resource management issues. Though these often align with local needs and interests, government priorities change from time to time, so that instability is the outcome. There will also be times when particular local needs are apparent but no funding is available that aligns with the need.
- Because grants are **short-term** by nature, where staff need to be employed to undertake the work involved, their employment is limited to short-term contracts. This makes it difficult to attract and retain professional staff with appropriate environmental science qualifications.
- In **challenging economic conditions**, there is always a risk that less funding will be made available for NRM grants, even though the needs are acknowledged. This possibility threatens both the projects that need support and the employment of the NRMOs.

Despite the above issues, the MCC has been successful in attracting and expending grant funds over the years. In recent years the Caring for Our Country (CFOC) scheme, a federal government initiative, has been a significant source of revenue and has enabled MCC to carry out valuable projects to protect the river and its catchment. Fortunately in earlier years when government funding was available the MCC built up reserves, the interest on which pays the salary of a part-time (52 hours per month) Executive Officer, whose major role is grant management. Grant funds support 1.8 FTE natural resource management officers (NRMOs) who are directly employed by MCC.

At the time the decision was made to hold the MCC Futures workshop, advice from government sources indicated the CFOC grant mechanism would not continue beyond the current round, due to end in the case of MCC in December 2012. Until now, funding priorities for CFOC have been: Northern and remote Australia; Community skills, knowledge and engagement; National Reserve system; Biodiversity and natural icons; Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats; and Sustainable farm practices.

The impending closure of the CFOC initiative is of enormous consequence to the MCC, because most of its funding is delivered via this source. The future likelihood was that MCC's operations would become minimal from December 2012, as the current grants expired. Though the issue of whether to diversify both operations and revenue streams has been raised before, it has remained unresolved, however the impending closure of CFOC injected some urgency into properly addressing this issue.

In response to the limitations of total reliance on grant funding, around the region some natural resource management groups have decided to undertake other activities to earn revenue and diversify their range of operations. Examples are the West Midlands Group which has moved to become a grower group with fee-based membership, and the Chittering Landcare Centre which through support from a sponsor and carrying out some fee-for-service operations has become more diverse and financially stable. Some information on their range of activities is available in *Appendix I*. An issue for MCC to consider is whether it should similarly engage in other activities that earn revenue and allow diversification of services.

Shortly before the workshop was held, it was announced that the new Commonwealth budget included on-going funding for Caring for Our Country initiatives. From July 2013, CFOC will be delivered through two specific streams – one dedicated to **sustainable environment**, and the other to **sustainable agriculture**. The media release immediately after the budget announcement stated "Separate streams will allow for greater emphasis on the role farming communities play in keeping our land productive, and the projects that are needed to support

their efforts”.⁴ A second phase of consultation regarding the future direction of the program will take place over coming months. As yet, no further information is available on how the forthcoming round of CFOC grants will be administered, nor what the priorities will be beyond the division into the two streams – agriculture and environment.

With these background factors in mind, issues to be discussed at the workshop included:

- Is the organisation (MCC) sustainable/viable as a major player in the current NRM market?
- Is financial diversification for MCC a real possibility or just a dream?
- Is fee-for-service an option for MCC?
- What can / should be the positioning of MCC in the NRM field after CFOC
- Identification of financial requisites to remaining sustainable
- Identification of likely sources of support
- Development of strategies for the group to be able to achieve the vision and work collaboratively with communities to achieve their ideas/projects
- Establish some core values for the group so guidelines can be developed re suitable activities for MCC
- Consider how the MCC can move further towards attracting corporate sponsorship for projects within its region.

The decision was made to invite a group of persons with an interest in NRM; the invitation wording was as follows:

For the last 17 years, the Moore Catchment Council has worked steadily to conserve and restore the Moore River and its extensive catchment lands. It's time for us to consider our focus for the future – this day is designed to develop options that will sustain the Moore River and its catchment lands as well as the Moore Catchment Council itself. We have invited you because you have an interest in this area and/or have the ability to engage in big-picture thinking. We hope you are able to join us because we value your input.

A list of participants is provided in *Appendix B*.

3 Workshop Input: Overview of the Moore River and its Catchment

MCC NRMO **Rachel Walmsley** was invited to open proceedings by presenting an overview of the Moore River and its catchment. The Powerpoint slides she included in her presentation are included in *Appendix C*.

The **major points** mentioned included:

- The River is changing
- This is partly due to climate variations
- And partly due to increasing sediment
- There are insufficient river monitoring systems
- There is increasing salinity
- There are changing flow and drainage patterns, often as an outcome of human intervention

Additional to these points growing population pressure on the River in the southern region of the catchment was mentioned, especially in the Guildford estuary area where the River enters the sea. There is considerable land development taking place in this area, often by Perth-based people who are establishing what might be described as lifestyle farms in the area.

⁴ Source: www.nrm.gov.au - Media release, Hon Tony Burke, 8 May 2012

The matter of changing drainage patterns was commented on by delegate John Longman, who recalls that many years ago there was an attempt to create a 20metre wide corridor along the River, to lessen the risk of major flooding. He believes one consequence of this has been sedimentation in a number of places over subsequent years.

Following Rachel's presentation and some discussion, the group divided into clusters each of three or four delegates. They were presented with a set of questions and asked to discuss them. The questions were:

- *What seemed really important?*
- *What did you hear that you weren't aware of?*
- *What encouraged you?*
- *What questions arose – what do you want to know more about?*
- *What issues and ideas did you think of?*
- *Are there concerns and issues not mentioned in the talk by Rachel?*

After some discussion time, the large group reconvened and responses were invited on **the needs of River and its catchment**. The following points were made:

The River and its Catchment:

- There is considerable concern about the overall health of the river and its related environment
- A helpful perspective on the River is to consider that, as a whole, the River is the backbone of catchment lands
- The Moore River is an old meandering river system – results in needs in valley areas, increased salinity, cropping with higher nutrient impact on river
- Research is required to learn more about the entire river and catchment system
- Use of underground water routes, where they are used, impacts on river of lower water flow
- There is little knowledge about the routes of underground water flows
- There is a need to document the history of area/river etc as some of that information will aid understanding of how the River has changed over time
- Baseline information is needed on the River and catchment to allow comparisons in the future
- There is a \$650,000 research project underway at the moment, though it seems this may spread over some years; Don Telford is aware of the details of the project
- There is a need to remind all residents and users that the care of the River and catchment is about the management of a natural resource
- The Moore River is not regarded by the WA government as having major needs. It was noted that this is a comparative issue, and the existence of other rivers in WA with greater needs does not indicate that the Moore River system has little or no need for research and sound management.

The Residents and Users:

- There is a large and diverse group of stakeholders with an interest in the River and catchment
- There is a wide range of differences in how the river is viewed around region, e.g., attitudes vary across the catchment depending on rainfall in each area and the availability of water
- There are only 3 major urban areas – Moora, Guilderton, Gingin; majority of land along the River is in agricultural use
- Research is needed with users re how they use the river, what it means to them, etc.

Promotion and Education:

- There is a need to raise the profile of the River and catchment lands, both inland and coastal

- There is a need to be aware of the impact of visibility – awareness of the needs of the River is better where it looks like a river
- Education of users of all ages and walks of life about the River, its catchment and its needs should be happening throughout the region.

The strongest themes to emerge from this session were:

- 1) ***There is scant research available about this River and its catchment.*** In the absence of research, quality information that would inform sound management is not available. It was agreed it will take very considerable funding and a long time period to gather, analyse and disseminate information about the River, yet in the meantime it must still be responsibly managed.
- 2) Because of the number of factors in the environment, climate, usage patterns, etc. that can influence the well-being of the River, much of the “information” available is anecdotal, and often is better described as opinion than proven fact. This leads to ***difficulties in determining what is needed to responsibly manage and protect the River and its catchment,*** especially where there is a need to influence politicians who themselves may be struggling to find accurate, reliable information.
- 3) The length of the River and diversity of landforms, usage, industry, lifestyles, etc., along the route makes it ***difficult to generate a sense of commitment to the whole River and its catchment,*** rather than a focus only on the section near one’s property, town, etc. This leads to problems with understanding the impact of individual actions and decisions downstream as well as locally.
- 4) Related to #3 above, the vast majority of ***residents of the catchment are ill-educated about the River system, the catchment and the overall needs of the system.*** Engaging their interest and providing interesting, informative information is a critical need.

Another task completed by the group during this session was that of identifying all of the **stakeholders** who may have an interest in matters relating to the management of the Moore River and its catchment. Below is the list developed – this is not in any order of priority:

Agriculture / primary production / farming:		
Owners of farms	Broadacre farmers	Lifestyle farmers (mostly in estuary section)
Government:		
Dept of Lands	Water Corporation	Dept of Agriculture
8 x Shire Councils	Dept of Environment & Conservation	Dept of Health
Commonwealth – NRM / CFOC funding		
Environmental / natural resource management:		
“Friends of” groups	NRM groups	NACC
Other Industries:		
Tourism industry	Mining industry (gas, oil, mineral sands, bauxite, dolomite, granite, haemotite)	Business owner and managers in towns along river (retail, hospitality, ag. services, etc.)
Communities:		
Residents of towns / communities along the river	Residents of newly-developing areas (especially in the estuary section)	Indigenous communities, including conservation of and access to sacred sites

Recreational users	Metropolitan population as visitors and tourists	Schools and their students
Landowners:		
Families who own farms	Land developers	Government – owners of crown land

An observation made in the whole group discussion is that in fact **the major stakeholder is the Moore River itself and its catchment**. The interests and needs of all of the above stakeholders can only be met by a river that is healthy and well managed.

4 Workshop Input: The Moore Catchment Council

The second presentation was by **Duncan Peter**, secretary of the Moore Catchment Council executive committee. Duncan presented an historical overview of the MCC and its predecessors, referring along the way to funding matters and structure/governance matters. The Powerpoint slides he presented are included in *Appendix D*.

Major points made by Duncan include:

- The predecessor of the MCC was formed because of a situation arising in an adjacent shire where there was potential for water from the Yarra Yarra Lakes, known to be saline, to enter the north western catchment of the Moore River. In time this threat did not eventuate.
- The organisation has remained operational for over 15 years, due to the commitment of a small number of people who have been involved for all or most of that time.
- The decision to have the committee constituted on the basis of the shires located in the catchment has not led to active interest or participation by a number of those shires.
- In earlier times, some grants were obtained that were not fully expended resulting in funds being returned to the government granting bodies. This was seen as regrettable and has not occurred in recent times.
- The relationship between NACC and MCC has had some moments of difficulty, including the employment and supervision of the NRMO's. At present this is resolved to the satisfaction of MCC.
- The format used to establish grant contracts with NACC has been amended in recent years to ensure each grant project has its own contract. This ensures that in the event a contract does not achieve its outcomes, only the funding of that particular project is jeopardised, and other projects are operating independently.
- The organisation has come to realise the importance of having personnel available who have good skills in stakeholder engagement. This ensures interest in grants available and active take-up of funds available by target groups.
- A business plan was drawn up by John Braid in 2009, and is in the process of being implemented (see *Appendix A* for objectives of the business plan).

Based on Duncan's presentation the facilitator presented the following to the group as **issues that needed consideration**:

- The need for solid grant management skills
- The need for solid business and financial administration skills
- The need for excellent stakeholder engagement skills
- The need for effective committee structure and governance (shire structure for membership?)
- The issue of independence – consideration of the extent to which funding sources influence decision-making/choice of projects, etc., of group
- The instability of grant funding

- The need for grants to be under separate contracts
- The need for the relationship with NACC to be professionally managed for the benefit of both organisations.

The large group then reconvened into the smaller clusters, and discussed the following questions:

- *What was news to you about the work of the MCC?*
- *What is the MCC doing that no one else seems to be doing?*
- *What issues and ideas are you aware of that could/should be addressed by the MCC but are not in their portfolio at the moment?*
- *If gaining funds was not a problem, what other work should the MCC be involved in?*

Input from the whole group when it reconvened included:

Membership and Participation:

- More community awareness / education / communication is needed
- A higher level of involvement is needed – yet people are sometimes reticent to become involved because of concern about how much will be asked of them
- There is a heavy reliance on volunteers to help with projects, communication, etc.
- There is a need to grow the membership base
- MCC has ~300 members – there is good communication with them, but still room to improve
- The Committee’s structure is cumbersome – a restructure is needed to make it smaller and probably not shire-based; a new process for reporting to the eight shires would then need to be negotiated

Focus of MCC:

- The MCC has consistently had a strong environmental / natural resource management focus
- At times there is some crossover into ‘grower group territory’
- The MCC could/should become involved in public comment and perhaps lobbying over important matters relating to the management of the Moore River and its catchment
- Because the Moore River is not on the high priority list of the WA Government, there is a need to lobby to have its need for funding acknowledged.

Partnerships:

- Throughout its history, MCC has built strong and effective relationships with other agencies
- The organisation is good at making community contact
- In more recent years, MCC has lost contact with government agencies due to funding and staffing changes.

Funding:

- A charge for membership could be considered as a way to increase revenue
- A rates levy could also be a means to increase revenue, but would be difficult if not impossible to achieve; it would also be very unpopular.

The strongest themes to emerge from this discussion were:

- 1) **Funding** – although the group supports the need to find funding sources additional to grants, there was no support for charging a membership fee or working towards the imposition of a rates levy. Other means of additional funding should be sought.
- 2) **Membership** – the current members are described as loyal and “on-side”, yet many more of them are needed
- 3) **Partnerships** – there was agreement that relationships with other organisations and other stakeholders are central to the success of the MCC, and energy should be invested in this area
- 4) **Focus** – there was no support for becoming a grower group, the view that the MCC should remain totally focused on NRM issues was expressed strongly

- 5) **Lobbying** – there was agreement that the MCC needs to be more vocal in speaking publicly about management issues for the River and catchment; it was noted that increasing the membership base will give stronger credibility to the MCC as a lobbyist
- 6) **Communication** – within the River and its catchment, more effective communication is needed to educate people, inform them of needs and projects, and to engage their participation as volunteers
- 7) **Governance** – there was almost universal agreement that a committee of 21 members is cumbersome, and may itself be a reason for low attendance levels by many members. It was agreed that a different procedure for forming the committee is needed, so that the committee is smaller and comprised of members who are able to commit time to the task.

5 Workshop Input: Grants and Operations of the MCC

The third presentation was by **Helen Watkins**, Executive Officer of the MCC. Helen was asked to present the grants and projects history of the MCC. Helen’s Powerpoint slides are included in *Appendix E*, and the spreadsheet she distributed on the grants and projects is included in *Appendix F*.

The major points Helen made include:

- Because funds available to the MCC in its early years were often channelled through government departments, they did not “go through MCC’s books”, so records of them were not available for the workshop
- From 2000 – 2012, a total of \$4,259,024.05 has been received in grant funding
- Sources of grants have been the Commonwealth government, state government, NACC
- All grants received from 2000-2012 have been successfully completed and acquitted.

The table below lists the **grant value per year** over this 13 ½ year period. It must be noted that many of the grants below commence in one year and end in the next, e.g., the total for 2011 includes a grant of \$30,300 that commenced in November 2011 and will conclude in September 2012. Full details are listed in *Appendix F*, as is the funding source for each grant.

Moore Catchment Council Total Grants Received 2000-2012 <i>(note: the year listed is when the grant commenced)</i>			
Year	Grant Total	Year	Grant Total
2000	\$ 270,000	2007	\$ 769,092
2001	\$ 15,320	2008	\$ 342,000
2002	\$ 377,700	2009	\$ 527,319
2003	\$ 16,640	2010	\$511,728
2004	\$ 270,145	2011	\$314,133
2005	\$ 467,132	2012 (ends 06/13)	\$ 19,700
2006	\$ 358,115	TOTAL	\$ 4,259,024

Six different grants commenced in 2011 but conclude during 2012; of these, one concludes in each month of May, July, August and September; and three in December 2012. Of the 2012 grants, one concludes in October and one in June 2013.

During the years covered by the above table, each grant received which has reached its completion date has been fully expended and successfully acquitted to the funding body. The

2011 and 2012 grants are all current, but it is expected they will be fully expended and that MCC will successfully achieve the acquittal requirements.

6 Workshop Input: Chittering Landcare Centre

At the invitation of the facilitator, **Robert Hawes**, present on behalf of Chittering Landcare, agreed to speak briefly to give an overview of their operations and revenue streams. He made the following points:

- Like MCC, Chittering Landcare relies heavily on volunteers, and this is likely to remain so as government grant funding decreases
- The organisation has the benefit of a “high profile” champion, and is aware of the benefit of this in generating interest, awareness and support
- The organisation has representation from sub-groups of smaller catchment regions, not of the Councils in the region.
- There are MOU’s in place with the sub-groups to clarify the activities etc of each
- The organisation, on a fee-for-service basis, provides professional advice to the Gingin, Swan and Chittering Councils on environmental matters. This includes providing advice on biodiversity issues that can be used to guide development, and may be added to town planning schemes
- Another fee-for-service activity of the organisation is to undertake tree-planting for developers, this is sometimes staffed used working-holiday-visa staff
- The organisation is aware that the retention of professional staff requires revenue streams additional to grants, to provide stability and continuity
- To encourage community engagement, CLC organises an annual tree-planting day at RAAF Pearce and at St Mary’s Anglican Girls School at Karrinyup. Though these require a considerable amount of organisation, they are a long-term means of keeping the community interested and involved.

Robert was thanked for providing this input, especially with very little prior notice.

7 Future Focus for the Moore Catchment Council

During the two afternoon sessions, most of the discussion centred around five topics:

- Future focus for the Moore Catchment Council
- Values of the Moore Catchment Council
- Commercial options
- Funding options
- Governance and Management

This section will outline the ideas discussed concerning the focus of the MCC.

It was agreed that the purpose and focus of the MCC should be to undertake whatever activities are possible to protect the River and its catchment – the Moore Catchment Council does not consider itself a grower group, and wishes to retain its **focus on natural resource management**. From a combination of large and small group discussion, the following points emerged as the needs of the River and its catchment that should be the focus of MCC’s work:

- **Protect and preserve the Moore River and its catchment**
- **Research** – the need to understand the profile of the Moore River system; gather research findings already available; coordinate on-going research; raise research questions
- **Monitoring** the condition of the river and its catchment

- **Lobbying** – a voice for the river and its catchment, to provide sound input to policy-making and decision-making by governments and other stakeholders
- **Educate** people; be skilled in effective **communication** to generate interest and involvement
- **Lift MCC profile**; coordinate groups within Moore River system; grow membership
- **Promote respectful, appropriate use** of the River and its catchment, whether social or economic/industrial/agricultural
- **Restructure** the Committee of the MCC to a smaller group not connected to shire representation
- **Funding** – the need to identify initiatives and funding opportunities that fit within the aims and values of the MCC, including services that can be provided on a fee-for-service basis.

All of the above were considered to be **high priorities**.

8 Values of the Moore Catchment Council

During the various discussions, some values emerged that are core to the focus and operations of the Moore Catchment Council. This is not an exhaustive list, but rather these are the central values that should guide policy-making and decision-making for the Council:

- **Appreciation of the River and its catchment**
- **Sound environmental management**
- **Protection of the River its catchment**
- **Openness, accessibility, involvement for members and supporters**

9 Commercial Options for the Moore Catchment Council

Discussions during the first three sessions led to **acknowledgement and agreement that the MCC should diversify its activities to secure additional funding streams and increase the range of natural resource management activities it can involve itself in**. The selection of other activities for the MCC must be guided by the values expressed above in #8.

Ideas suggested include:

- To be an honest broker in Carbon Trading (noting the CarbonQuest initiative of NACC)
- Environmental offset management
- Waste management expertise (Rachel Walmsley)
- Project management for environmental issues
- Expertise in managing roadside revegetation, biodiversity, monitoring these (asset management, a need to be addressed by shire councils)
- Biosecurity – fee for service, project management
- Events relating to NRM (educational, social)

It was noted that all of these are consistent with the values, objectives, etc. of MCC. It was further noted that for MCC to become involved on a commercial, fee-for-service basis in any of these will require an up-front investment in additional staff skilled in identifying market needs and having the ability to package services in a way that is attractive to potential customers.

10 Funding Options

It was noted that the following funding options should be considered:

- Continue to seek **grant funds** with an NRM focus. It was noted that the CFOC grants will continue, but the details are not yet available
- **Donors and benefactors** – it was noted that personnel have not been available to pursue this, but it may draw in some income. It was suggested that, as the MCC does not charge membership fees and does not wish to, members could be encouraged to make a donation of an amount of their choosing in lieu of a membership fee
- **Membership fundraising** – on a volunteer basis, some members may be prepared to organise activities that will raise funds for the MCC, e.g., social gatherings, raffles, etc.
- Undertake **professional services on a fee-for-service basis**, e.g., as the Chittering Landcare Centre does. The range of options identified at this time is listed in #9 above
- **Carbon trading** initiatives – e.g., Carbon Quest (NACC). Research will be needed on what the opportunities and requirements are for involvement in this industry
- **Biosecurity funding** – this is an emerging area of importance to shire councils
- **Sponsorship** – it was acknowledged that this has increased the resources of other NRM groups. Its risk is a possible loss of independence. Sponsors need to be targeted carefully to ensure their objectives align with those of MCC, and there is a need to identify benefits for sponsors so they receive value for their investment.

The possibility of imposing **levies** within shires was discussed, but the consensus was that this would be very unpopular and would most likely lead to negative consequences and loss of support for the MCC. Similarly, the idea of charging a fee for membership was dismissed because it is inconsistent with the final value listed in #8 above – the preference is to grow as large a membership base as possible because this will increase interest, awareness and involvement.

11 Committee and Constitution Matters

The final topic discussed during the afternoon sessions was that of governance, in particular the current structure of the Committee required by the constitution. The discussion included:

Issues concerning Committee Composition and Meeting Attendance:

- It was agreed that 21 members is too large and cumbersome, and does not encourage a sense of obligation to attend among committee members
- The current approach of having committee members appointed by shires (2 per shire) has not resulted in a good attendance rate at meetings; many meetings have as few as five in attendance. In part, this may be because of shire councillors are 'stretched' already to attend a large number of meetings, and this can also be the case in small shires where the community representatives may also have many other obligations
- All members at present are appointed, none are elected
- There are two subcommittees – the Executive and an HR committee. It was noted there is overlap in the operations of these two committees
- With the intention to diversify the operations of the MCC, it was noted that there is a range of skills and expertise that is needed on the committee, and which is not available on it at present (some skills are, some are not). See #4 for a list of the skills areas identified as being needed by MCC
- The committee moves its meetings around the region. Though this provides an opportunity to meet locals and visit sites of interest, it creates heavy travel obligations.
- Meetings usually include a speaker, to keep the group informed of trends, needs, initiatives, etc.

- The low meeting attendance rate may partly reflect a meeting that is uninteresting or where little is achieved; this may further stress the importance of sharpening the focus of MCC and determining a course of action to achieve its objectives.

Recommendations with respect to the composition of the committee included:

- Amend the constitution to discontinue the current committee structure of two representatives per shire
- Have shires and government agencies as consultants to the committee, not members of it
- Develop agreed reporting and consultation procedures with shires, to ensure they have input and are up to date on the work of MCC; one option is that following each meeting a half-page Executive Summary of the minutes is prepared and forwarded to Councils and other stakeholders, including relevant government departments
- Consider appointing two shire representatives, who do not need to be elected shire councillors and whose task is to alert the committee to issues of interest to shires
- Move to a committee that is elected by the members
- Move to a system where executive / office bearers are elected by members
- As the committee appears to need a different skill set, develop a matrix of needed skills and use this when seeking nominations for vacancies
- To lessen the impact of travel, use videoconferencing and/or teleconferencing as a means of attendance.

12 Suggested Action Plan from the Workshop

Though time on the day of the workshop did not allow the development of a strategy to achieve the priorities listed in #7 above, the following are suggested by the facilitator as a means to steadily move MCC towards diversification. Some are direct strategies and can and should be implemented as soon as possible, others are indirect and their impact will be more of a long-term nature.

The headings used in this section are similar to those used in #7 above, and are based on the premise that the purpose and focus of the MCC should be to undertake whatever activities are possible to protect the River and its catchment. Because of the overlap or relatedness of some priorities, the items have been rearranged.

I. Protect and preserve the Moore River and its catchment

- i. **Continue to apply for CFOC and other NRM grants** at state and Commonwealth level
- ii. As soon as the information becomes available re the **revised CFOC programme**, assess which grants align with MCC's focus and submit applications for funding
- iii. **Continue to engage the labour of volunteers** to help with un-funded or partially-funded initiatives such as cleaning up river banks, tree-planting, taking samples for testing, etc.

II. Research and

III. Monitoring the condition of the river and its catchment

- i. **Call a meeting of those with scientific and technical expertise** about the Moore River and its catchment with the aim of reviewing what research is available or underway, and identifying what are the most significant gaps in research (i.e., those that hamper responsible and effective management of the River and its catchment). The outcome of this, which will require that participants do some work after the meeting and either

submit their input to MCC or attend a second meeting where the input of all is collated, will be a list of the most significant research questions relating to the Moore River and its catchment. Once this list of research topics and questions is available, the following step can be implemented.

- ii. **Approach the major universities that are involved in research on land and water management** to discuss the possibility of honours, masters and PhD students conducting research projects on issues of importance to the Moore River and its catchment. For example, UWA has researchers working in the fields of groundwater, biodegradation, water-logging, landscape capability assessments, nutrient and waste management, solute transport and contamination, sediment and water chemistry, acid sulphate soils, and biogeochemistry.⁵ The other universities in WA that conduct research in areas of possible value to the MCC are Murdoch University, which has a number of relevant research institutes operating in the Faculty of Sustainability, Environmental and Life Sciences;⁶ Edith Cowan University which conducts high-tech research in the area of environmental sensors networks;⁷ and Curtin University lists sustainable development as one of its research areas of strength, listing water quality as a research topic.⁸
- iii. In addition, approach CSIRO, which operates the **CSIRO Small and Medium Enterprise Engagement Centre** (SME-EC). This is a diverse team of nationally based managers, with a broad range of technical and/or business skills, who are readily available to help Australian SME's access research and development from within the National Innovation System in order to help define and address technical issues and facilitate business growth. The SME-EC links SME's with the best researchers in the National Research Flagship Programs.⁹

Aim to arrive at a point where the MCC is considered within the region and by government agencies at all levels (local, state and federal) to **be the lead organisation** to identify and coordinate research on the Moore River and its catchment.

IV. Restructure the Committee of the MCC to a smaller group not connected to shire representation.

- i. Hold a meeting of the executive committee to **draft a new model for the Committee**. This model would involve disbanding the current practice of two representatives from each shire and designated government representatives. The alternative model would provide for a small committee of not more than ten members who are elected by the membership at large.
- ii. Additional to this, draw up a **draft of the reporting mechanisms** that can be put in place to ensure shires and government departments are invited to provide input on issues of relevance to them and that they receive timely information about the work of the MCC (so there is no disadvantage to not having membership of the Committee)
- iii. Once this alternative model and the reporting mechanisms have been drafted, **meet face to face with each shire** to discuss the shortcomings of the current model, present attendance records, and describe the proposed Committee membership model to them
- iv. **Write to each shire** to formalise the intention to amend the constitution to adopt these changes

⁵ Source: www.uwa.edu.au School of Earth and Environment

⁶ Source: www.murdoch.edu.au Faculty of Sustainability, Environmental and Life Sciences

⁷ Source: www.ecu.edu.au eAgriculture Research Group

⁸ Source: www.curtin.edu.au Research Institutes and Centres

⁹ Source: www.csiro.au SME Engagement Centre

- v. Attend to the necessary steps in having the **constitution amendments prepared**
- vi. **Call a meeting of all members**, advertising in advance that a key purpose of the meeting is to amend the constitution with respect to Committee membership
- vii. **Hold the meeting** and present the constitution amendments; follow required procedures to vote on amendments
- viii. If amendments are accepted, **register the new constitution** and proceed to implement changes in Committee membership. **Write letters to all organisations and individuals** who previously held Committee positions to inform them of amendment, invite them to nominate for the new Committee, and thank them for their contribution to the MCC while on the Committee
- ix. If amendments are accepted, **call for nominations** for the Committee, advertise this well throughout the membership
- x. **Hold a meeting of members** to elect a new Committee.

V. **Lift MCC profile**; coordinate groups within Moore River system; grow membership

- i. Review membership with a view to **identifying three or four high-profile persons** with sound knowledge of NRM matters. Invite these to become **public spokespersons** for the MCC, to do so on the request of the Committee, on topics identified by the Committee once the MCC's position on the issue has been determined
- ii. Redesign the **MCC logo and website** to a more professional and engaging standard. Before engaging a web-designer, discuss in detail what the menu headings and individual screens should be so that the website is informative and easy to navigate.
- iii. **Conduct a membership drive**, assuming that membership remains free as it is now. One approach is to ask every existing member to sign up a friend/colleague as a new member. Even if this is only partly successful and achieves a 50% hit rate, MCC will grow to 450+ members rather than the current 300.
 - i. **Print "invitations"** the size of business cards that have the MCC's web address on it, contact information, a brief list of the kinds of initiatives the MCC undertakes, and an invitation to recipients to become a member and volunteer. Whenever NRMOs, the EO, and Committee members are at schools, visiting other organisations, etc., these cards should be given to those present with a verbal invitation to sign up as a member.

VI. **Lobbying** – a voice for the river and its catchment, to provide sound input to policy-making and decision-making by governments and other stakeholders

- i. Use the skills of Committee members and the public spokespersons to **ensure the voice of the MCC is heard** regularly and widely in the region and in relevant organisations such as government departments
- ii. When appropriate, **formally write** to shires, government departments, members of parliament, etc., to register the opinion of the MCC on issues that warrant comment
- iii. When appropriate, **issue media releases** for these issues

- iv. **Rebuild the relationships** MCC previously had with key representatives from relevant **government departments**. To do this will place MCC in a much stronger position when issues arise where their input needs to be heard and will assist with securing general support of MCC initiatives.

VII. **Educate** stakeholders; be skilled in effective **communication** to generate interest and involvement

- ii. **Continue to hold seminars and workshops** on NRM topics, especially for farmers
- iii. **Use the website** to tell the success stories; promote grants; publish scientific and technical information gathered by MCC NRMO's
- iv. **Continue to prepare a newsletter** on a quarterly basis. In between, short email messages can be sent out to advertise grants, seminars, etc.
- v. On the website and in the newsletter, **include links to scientific and technical articles** (in lay terms where possible) to encourage members to educate themselves about issues relating to the River and its catchment, NRM, etc.
- vi. **Introduce a schools programme, primary and secondary**. Where there is interest from schools, consider carrying out suitable projects on site or nearby to schools so that students can be personally involved in activities such as tree-planting, etc. Target one or two years levels in primary and one in secondary, and prepare a presentation relevant to that year level. Get to know the grounds and surrounds of each school well enough that NRMO's could take a class on a tour of their school grounds and point out areas of relevance to MCC's focus. Invite the schools in the catchment to sign up as members and endeavour to appoint an MCC contact person at each school.

VIII. **Promote respectful, appropriate use** of the River and its catchment, whether social or economic/industrial/agricultural

- i. **Introduce annual awards** that acknowledge the achievements made by individuals or groups in the NRM projects undertaken by MCC, or which they may have initiated in their own right. These could be categorised by region, type of project, etc., depending on the wishes of MCC. A lunch could be held annually in each region (no more than 3) to present the awards and acknowledge the contribution of the person or group.
- ii. **Print "thank you" cards** the size of business cards, allowing a space where the recipient's name can be printed and a space for the Chair of MCC to sign. These would be given to each participating person in MCC projects either at the time of completion or when a significant milestone is achieved. The text of the card would be brief but would indicate the contribution the person has made to the care of the River and catchment
- iii. When a major project is completed or a significant milestone achieved, consider **holding an inexpensive social event (BBQ) on a farm, in a park**, etc., to celebrate the achievement and encourage further participation.

IX. **Funding** – the need to identify initiatives and funding opportunities that fit within the aims and values of the MCC, including services that can be provided on a fee-for-service basis.

- i. **Meet with manager and/or committee of Chittering Landcare** to discuss in detail the range of activities undertaken by that group, how they approached potential sponsors, customers, etc., how they identified the services needed by their market.

- ii. **Undertake a skills audit with the two NRMO's** specifically to identify what skills and experience they have that may be able to be applied to commercial projects conducted by MCC, e.g., in the workshop, one area identified was waste management. There will need to be analysis of whether this is an area of expertise that can be made available commercially to councils, businesses etc., and what it would require by way of replacing the time allocated to developing a new initiative (and is another NRMO available part-time to fill the gap in time needed to service existing grants).
- iii. Engage a consultant with suitable business skills and NRM knowledge to **examine the funding options raised at the workshop (# 9) and investigate how each might be implemented.** This work is very specific and should result in a **updated detailed business plan** listing who will be involved, what the particular initiatives will be, and for commercial endeavours – who is the target customer and what exactly is the service they need, etc. The revised business plan must include a timeline, budget for five years showing what expenditure will be outlaid in the early years to establish MCC as a supplier of other services, how this expenditure can be covered until the new initiatives draw in revenue, and what level of revenue may be earned (operating surplus). This plan must also encompass unearned revenue, such as sponsorships and donations.
- iv. With respect to # iii above, the Committee must determine if it is willing to commit funds from its resources to **engage a person with business acumen and NRM knowledge** and a reasonable understanding of NRM to undertake this work. It must also determine what proportion of its resources it is prepared to expend (invest) in developing some of the additional funding streams listed in #9 as there will undoubtedly be a period where there are considerable outgoings before new revenue streams deliver income.

It will be the task of the members and committee to consider these suggested priorities and actions, and identify which will be adopted for implementation. Some might be considered not appropriate and some may need amendment. For those that appeal to the organisation, a plan that indicates who will be responsible for each action and the timelines needs to be drawn up.

13 Conclusion

The workshop affirmed the positive regard that exists for the Moore Catchment Council and the work it has undertaken for over 15 years. There was agreement and encouragement that the MCC has an important role to play in caring for the Moore River and its catchments because there remains much to be done and their track record is sound. There was also encouragement for the MCC to broaden its operations to strengthen its financial well-being and the range of services it can provide to support positive initiatives relating to management of the Moore River and its catchment as a critical natural resource in the region.

Appendix A

Objectives of MCC 2010 Business Plan¹⁰

BUSINESS OBJECTIVES

BY JANUARY 2011 MCC WILL HAVE:

- DEVELOPED PARTNERSHIPS WITH KEY REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS
- DEVELOPED AND PRACTICE GOOD CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
- CONTINUE TO OPERATE WITH SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
- ESTABLISHED MCC AS RELEVANT IN RESOLVING REGIONAL ISSUES
- ACHIEVED SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT TO THE MOORE RIVER CATCHMENT
- STAFF ACHIEVED SECURITY AND CONTINUITY

MCC MEDIUM TERM OBJECTIVES (NEXT 5 YEARS)

- MCC is recognised as a leading organisation in the provision of natural resource management services and community coordination. Further, MCC is an acknowledged contributor to the debate and resolution emerging issues.
- MCC is acknowledged as operating best practice governance and sound financial management that exceeds ASS compliance regulations.
- MCC has demonstrated sustainability through attracting both long and short funding through a variety sources. This is reflected in staff service security and continuity.
- The MCC endowment fund (Environmental Fund) has become self-sustaining and funds have been distributed to community projects.
- Through project implementation, MCC can demonstrate measureable improvement to the Moore River Catchment.

¹⁰ Source: *MCC 2010 Business Plan*, pp. 4-6

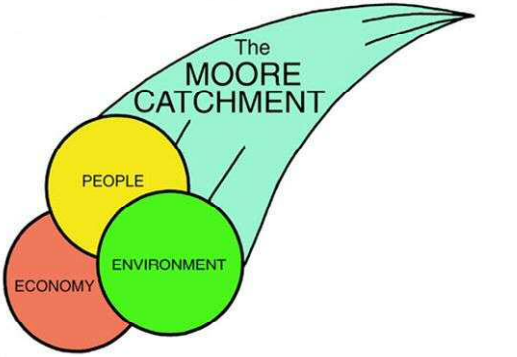


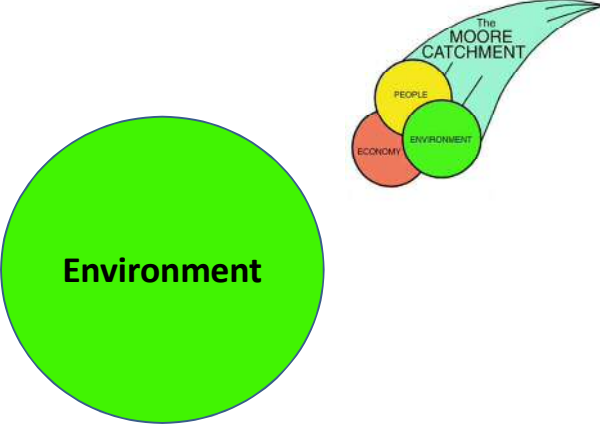
Appendix B

List of Participants

Name	Organisation
Don Telfer	AGWA
Steve Butenhouse	DEC Jurien Bay
Robert Dawes	Chittering Landcare Centre
Peta Thorniley	Markitech
Gillian Lamont	Friends of Moore River
Neil Lamont	Lower Moore River Working Group
Duncan Peter	MCC Committee
John Braid	MCC Committee
Lawrie Short	MCC Committee
Reg Beale	Chair, MCC Committee
John Longman	MCC Member
Helen Watkins	MCC Executive Officer
Rachel Walmsley	MCC NRMO (Session 1 only)
Carmel Ross	Facilitator

Appendix C

Presentation slides – Rachel Walmsley – Overview of the Moore River and its Catchment

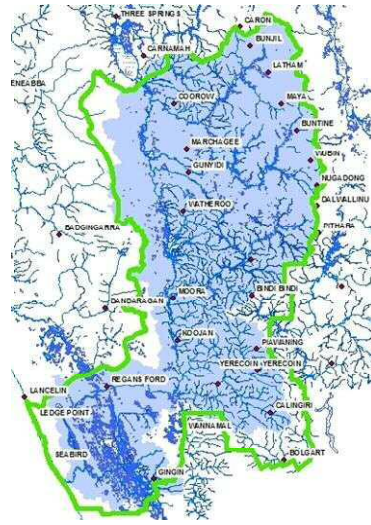
 <p>protecting the natural resources in the Moore River Catchment</p>	<h3>Location</h3>  <p>Moore River catchment starts an hour north of Perth</p> <p>The Moore Catchment Council (MCC) boundary aligns closely with the River catchment boundary</p> <p>MCC area is part of the Northern Agricultural Region (NAR)</p>
<h3>NAR</h3>  <p>MCC region is one of the 4 sub regions of the NAR</p> <p>Other sub regions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• West Midlands• Yarra Yarra• Greenough <p>Northern Agricultural Catchment Council (NACC) is NARs regional NRM body based in Geraldton</p>	 <h3>Environment</h3>

Moore River

Moore River catchment covers 1.38 million hectares from Bunjil down to Bolgart and across to Guilderton

Moore River is named after George Fletcher Moore (explorer) and is 196km long

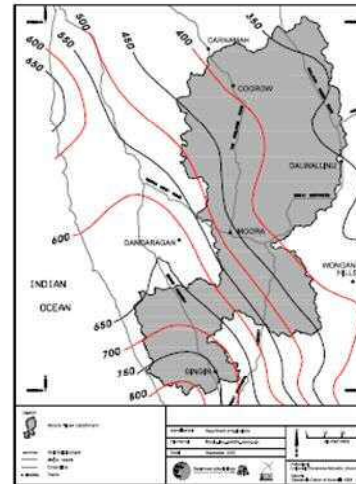
Moore River is fed by nine sub catchments and has numerous tributaries, lakes and wetlands feeding it



Climate

Climate is Mediterranean – cool wet winters & warm dry summers

Annual rainfall varies from 800mm near the mouth to around 350mm at the headwaters



Geology

Catchment covers two major geological regions – Perth Basin (west) and Yilgarn Craton (east)

Perth Basin is a deep trough of sedimentary deposits whilst Yilgarn Craton is granitic continental crust (>2.5billion yrs old)

Darling Fault line marks the divide

Deep sand, Sandy earth and Ironstone gravelly soil represent 60% of catchment



Vegetation

Based on soil – major types:

- York Gum/Salmon Gum woodland
- York Gum/Wandoo woodland
- Sandplain heath/shrub land

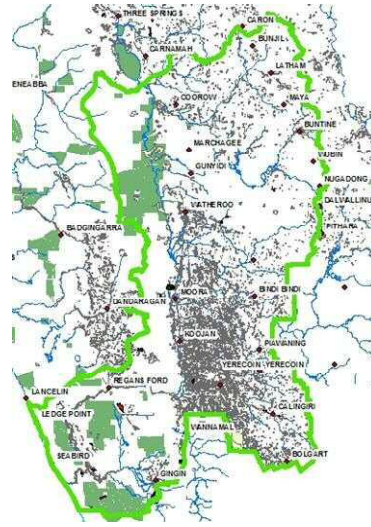
Approximately **one-quarter of the original vegetation has been retained**. This vegetation contains more than 80 species of priority flora and nearly 40 species of rare flora. Over 10 per cent of the remnant vegetation occurs in low lying areas



Vegetation

Number of National Parks including Watheroo National Park

Many DEC identified Priority Woodlands and Last Stands which need to be protected



Fauna

Moore River catchment is important habitat for many threatened fauna species including Mallee fowl, Western Spiny Tailed Skink and Carnaby's Black Cockatoo

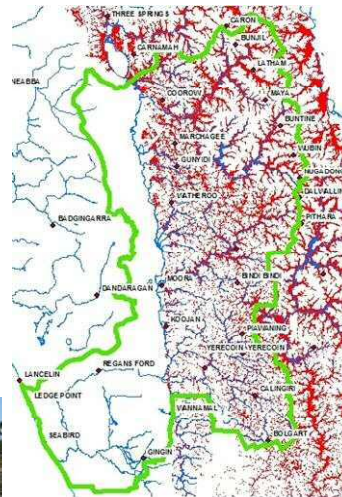
Birdlife Aus have identified 7 Important Bird Areas for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo in MCC region



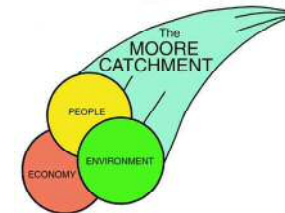
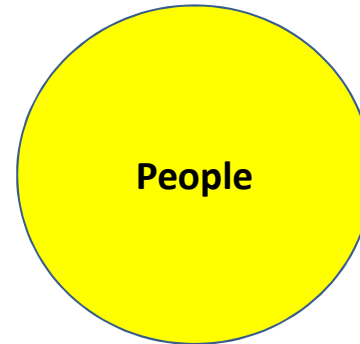
Salinity issues

One-quarter of the catchment east of the Darling Fault is low-lying with potential for developing shallow watertables.

One-third of bores in the catchment have groundwater levels at **less than 2 m** and the majority of these contain **moderately to highly saline** groundwater.



Areas with Average height above valley floor 0-2m

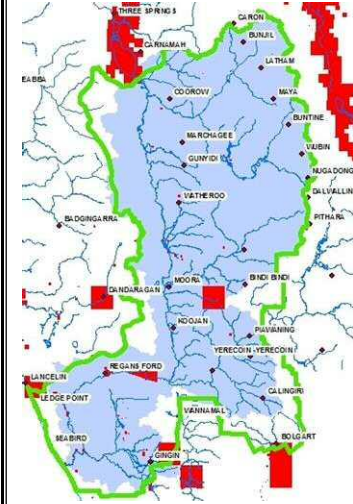
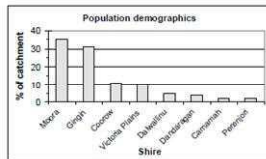


Shires

MCC region covers 8 Shires

- Gingin
- Victoria Plains
- Moora
- Dandaragan
- Coorow
- Carnamah
- Perenjori
- Dalwallinu

Approximately 16,000 residents in MCC area



Indigenous

Moore River catchment is of high importance to the Yued people

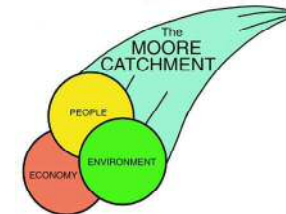
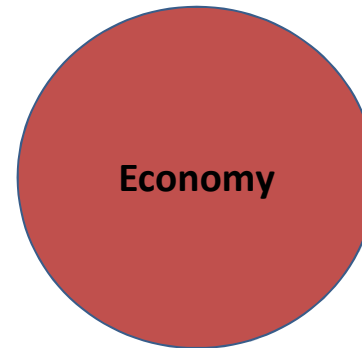
Many sites of Indigenous heritage significance including the Moore Important Indigenous area including Mogumber, Regans Ford, Guilderton and Walebing ... and the Moore River itself (Wagyl – dream serpent)



Environmental groups

Lots of groups including LCDCs, Friends of groups, Coastcare groups, Moore River estuary groups, Moora-Miling Pasture Improvement Group, NACC

MCC has collaborated with a lot of these groups for events and projects





Farming

2150 registered farming properties in MCC region

80% of the land use is classed as agricultural . Crops include wheat, lupins and barley. Livestock include wool, sheep meat, and weaner and steer production.

Horticulture enterprises – several orchards & also market gardens in the south

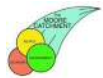
Many lifestyle blocks in south around Gingin and towards coast



Tourism

Moore River region attracts many tourists to coastal towns of Guilderton, Seabird and Ledge Point

Tourists also visit catchment for wildflowers and to visit New Norcia



Moore Catchment Council

The MCC aims to improve and maintain the health of the whole Moore River Catchment by promoting and encouraging sustainable natural resource management.

Conserve and improve the catchment's natural assets



Develop new and/or alternative sustainable farming practices



Successfully integrate land use and environmental management



Thank you for listening !

Rachel Walmsley
MCC Natural Resource Management Officer

Facts and Figures taken from DAFWAs Moore River Catchment Appraisal 2002



Appendix D

Presentation slides - Duncan Peter - History of the Moore Catchment Council

<p>The 'origins' of "MCC" – a Timeline!</p> <p>Duncan Peter</p>	<p>Late 1995</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Public Meeting, initiated by Don Cameron (Gingin), held in Moora to discuss the issue of water movement and environmental issues in the Moore River catchment and possible formation of a catchment group. <p>Arose from concerns that deep drainage in the Yarra Yarra catchment may result in saline water being delivered into the Moore River catchment and the downstream Moore River via the lakes and drainage system that terminates in Yarra Yarra Lake at Three Springs (above the start of Coonderoo river system)</p>
<p>1996</p> <p>Discussions on forming a "Catchment Group" continued between interested parties and with the Water and Rivers Commission.</p>	<p>1997</p> <p>Open workshops initiated by Dept of Agriculture (Duncan Peter) to develop a vision, aims/ objectives and structure of a Moore River catchment group.</p> <p>Viv Reed from Water and Rivers Commission as the facilitator. Members of the 8 Shires in the catchment, LCDCs, land managers with an interest in catchment issues (NRM) and relevant govt agencies (CALM, Dept of Ag) attended.</p>

1997 continued

Catchment Management Group to be called the **Moore River Basin Initiative Steering Committee**.

Structure of committee set as 2 representatives from each of the 8 shires (shire council nominee and a community member) plus representatives from the Water and Rivers Commission, Dept of Agriculture, and CALM. Chair to be elected from within the Shire (= community) representatives.

Also in 1997

Yarra Yarra Catchment Group formed with Max Hudson as Chair.

Dept of Agriculture (Dr Jill Wilson) initiated formation of further potential Catchment groups in West Midlands and Greenough.

Formation of NAIMS (predecessor of NACC) initiated by Dept of Agriculture with the idea of there being 4 sub-regions – Greenough, West Midlands, Moore Catchment and Yarra Yarra Catchment. Max Hudson was the community leader and subsequently chair.

Also in 1997 - continued

MRBISC Strategy incorporated in a draft NAIMS strategy

Don Cameron, from Gingin, elected as first chair of the “MRBISC”

Outcomes from the planning workshops were incorporated into a MRBISC strategy

Submissions made to Natural Heritage trust for funding

1998

Name of group reconsidered and the name ‘Moore Catchment Group’ chosen

Constitution of MCG developed, submitted and approved.

Further applications for “National Heritage Trust” (Landcare) funds submitted to Australian Government

1998 - continued

NHT submissions made by Water & Rivers Commission (with MCC assistance) successful and work commenced on –

- evaluating ground water movement in the Coonderoo system
- monitoring water quality in the Moore River estuary

1998 - continued

MCG commissioned as a committee of the Board of the Water and Rivers Commission and annual funding of \$40,000 approved for management and running of the group.

1999

Moora flooded!!!

Large submission from Coorow LCDC to establish revegetation in the Marchagee sub-catchment (successful)

1999

Don Cameron, the inaugural chair of the Moore Catchment Group resigned and stepped down from the committee due to personal issues

Michael Anspach (Victoria Plains) elected chair with Elizabeth Eaton (Gingin; subsequently chair of NACC) as vice-chair

2000

NHT submissions made for funding to

- manage water movement in the north Moore River Catchment to reduce flooding (successful);
- fence the river on Mogumber Aboriginal Reserve (successful).

2001

Project on “Surface water management in the north Moore River catchment” commenced. Jason Carter (private consultant) appointed as project manager. Project very successful in engaging landholders in NRM

Funds for fencing on Mogumber returned due to conflicts with CALM over fence location.

2001

Jonelle Black (funded through WRC & NHT) developed a new Moore Catchment Group Strategy – ‘Getting Moore to the Point’

This strategy was developed from a Water and Rivers Commission viewpoint and has a somewhat greater focus on ‘water’ than on ‘land’ ‘agriculture’ and ‘biodiversity’.

2002

East Moore River project commenced with management by MCG and use of sub-contractors for work.

(Not a total success and substantial funds eventually returned to NHT)

2002 continued

Water and Rivers Commission ceased funding of MCG

Name changed from -

“Moore Catchment Group (MCG)”

to

“Moore Catchment Council (MCC)”
(thought to be more “official”)

Constitution revised.

2003-04

NACC granted significant NHT and State funding. Two members of the MCC committee on NACC Management Committee

MCC became the ‘host employer’ of two NACC NRM officers who operated largely under the direction of NACC staff.

MCC sought and obtained funding for its own NHT projects from both NACC and NHT directly.

2004

MCC employed staff to operate its own MCC projects
(Did not differentiate between staff ‘employed’ as NRMOs and managed by NACC and those employed directly by MCC.)

Facilitated workshops held for developing a business plan. Large SWOT analysis carried out and draft plan developed but final plan not fully completed.

2005

NACC Regional NRM Strategy released

2007

Third revision of constitution carried out

Geoff Erickson (Victoria Plains) replaced Michael Anspach as chair

Management structure of NACC altered so as policy and non-operational matters managed by a much smaller skill-based Board and without sub-regional representation being essential. MCC retained 2 members on the Board

2008

New contract signed with NACC for employment of 2 NRM officers (still in reality a hosting arrangement) and delivery of CFOC outcomes for NACC. Majority of funding provided by NACC from Australian Govt "Caring for our Country"

MCC runs its own Caring for our Country and State NRM projects

2009

Business plan developed under guidance of MCC committee member, John Braid.

New CEO at NACC and NACC structure

2010

Revised contract signed with NACC which saw MCC sub-contracting to deliver 'Caring for our Country Outcomes' for NACC

NRM officers became 'genuine' MCC employers answerable directly to MCC rather than NACC

2011

Several contracts signed with NACC for delivering targets in differing components of 'Caring for our Country'

(Failure to meet agreed contract outcomes (targets) in one contract and subsequent with-holding of further payments by NACC for that contract does not mean total cessation of payments by NACC, provided outcomes (targets) of other contracts are met.)

Reg Beale replaces Geoff Erickson as Chair

2012

Constitution revised to try and meet quorum requirements for meeting – unsuccessful

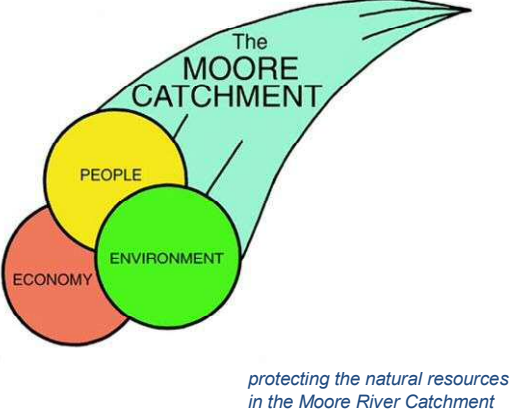
NACC contract funding ceases at the end of the year as CFOC comes to an end

MCC committee agree that the funding and function of the organisation be examined with a view to developing a possible plan for future funding, operations and new management structure.

2013 ????

Appendix E





Presentation slides – Helen Watkins – MCC Grants and Operations



*protecting the natural resources
in the Moore River Catchment*


Moore Catchment Council

- ❖ Office in Moora –1 Padbury Street
- ❖ Two full time Natural Resource Management Officers (NRMOs) and part time Executive Officer.
- ❖ Present funding through NACC, Caring For Our Country, State NRM, shires & donations
- ❖ MCC is a registered environmental fund and not for profit organisation
- ❖ Delivers NACC CFOC program and also in-house projects. Responds to community NRM questions and needs. Can work with shires to manage NRM targets.

Sponsorship


- ❖ In the early days of MCC Water & Rivers sponsored the organisation for up to \$50,000 per year
- ❖ Shires within the region at present pay an annual donation of \$500 per shire




Funding

Since 2000 MCC has received over \$4.2 Million dollars in funding

❖ NHT Funding	\$647,700
❖ CALM	\$ 15,300
❖ State NRM	\$230,100
❖ NAP	\$160,592
❖ Envirofunds	\$147,182
❖ Caring for our Country	\$355,400
❖ NACC	\$2.7m



- NHT Funded
- CALM
- State NRM
- NAP
- Envirofunds
- Caring for our country
- NACC

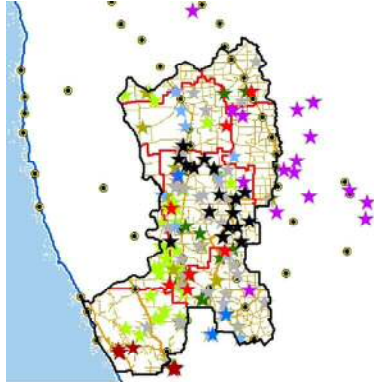


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© Moore Catchment Council – Workshop Report and Recommendations

Landholders

Landholders NRMOs have worked with from 2009 until present



Volunteers

Over the past 17 years MCC has :-

Assisted over 500 individuals / landholders / group either farming / river / urban or coastal with various projects/funding.

Held clean up days, workshops seminars, tree planting with over 150 volunteers giving their time

Over 50 people have contributed various roles on the committee

Have employed over 15 people in various positions either Community Landcare Officers, Project Managers, Natural Resource Management Officers, consultants and administration staff

Summary

At the present time MCC is in a sound financial position however still heavily reliant on funding from various sources:

Current Projects

- Wind Erosion,
- Hidden Treasures,
- Coastal Devolved grant
- Wind Erosion devolved grant
- Improving habitat and connectivity in the farming landscape for birds in the Moore River catchment
- Coastal,
- Working together to ensure the long-term sustainability of water resources in the greater Gingin area,
- Demonstrating elite fodder shrubs for future productive use in the NAR

MCC has over \$124,000.00 in funds available not subject to projects

\$6, 635.00 in the Environmental fund account

Moore Catchment Council



"To maintain and improve the health of the Moore River environment by communicating natural resource management and encouraging maximum sustainable use of resources."



Appendix F

Grants received by Moore Catchment Council 2000-2012

Funding Body	Project ID	Project Name	Funding received	Start Date	Completion Date	Status	Total funding approved per year
Federal - National Heritage Trust	NHT Project 993211	Improving Surface Water Management in the Upper Moore River Catchment	270,000	May-00	May-02	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	270,000
State - CALM	CALM	Carnaby's Cockatoo – Coast and Catchment	15,320	May-01	Dec-02	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	15,320
Federal - National Heritage Trust	NHT Project 013146	Improving Surface Water Management in the Upper Moore River Catchment Extension	147,000	Feb-02	Dec-02	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	377,700
Federal - National Heritage Trust	NHT Project 013147	East Moore River and Lower Coonderoo Local Action Plans and On Ground Action	230,700	Feb-02	Dec-02	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	
Federal - Envirofunds	Envirofund Project 40165	Drought Action for Woodland Birds	16,640	Jul-03	Jul-04	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	16,640
National Action Plan	NAP-033051	Community Landcare Co-ordinator	60,000	Apr-04	Jun-05	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	
NACC	NACC NLP-033049	Growing Broombush on Saline land	133,200	Apr-04	Jan-05	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	
Federal - Envirofunds	Envirofund Project 45147	"Beermullah Lake Project"	10,406	May-04	Nov-05	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	
Federal - Envirofunds	Envirofund Project 46010	Faraway Project	21,250	May-04	May-05	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	
Federal - Envirofunds	Envirofund Project 45150	"Yadgena Brook - Walebing Reserve Protection Project"	19,971	May-04	May-05	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	
Federal - Envirofunds	Envirofund Project 48944	Acacia Pruning demonstration	5,136	Nov-04	Nov-05	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	

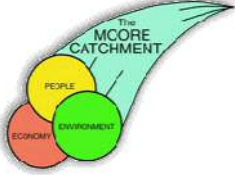

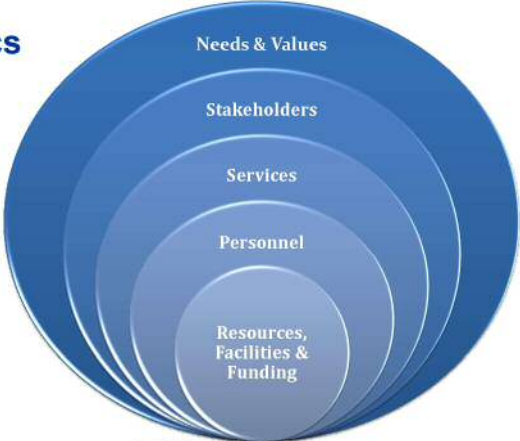
Funding Body	Project ID	Project Name	Funding received	Start Date	Completion Date	Status	Total funding approved per year
Federal - Envirofunds	Envirofunds Project 48986	Reclaim Saline creek and create a corridor of natural bushland	20,182	Nov-04	May-08	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	270,145
Federal - Envirofunds	Envirofund Project 51374	Fencing & Revegetation of Mungalla Brook	6,623	May-05	Aug-06	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	467,132
Federal - Envirofunds	Envirofund Project 51401	Protection, Rehabilitation & Improved Management of Saline Land, Maya	25,305	May-05	Aug-06	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	
Federal - Envirofunds	Envirofund Project 51854	Protection of Rare Flora	7,454	May-05	Aug-06	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	
NACC - IP1	04N107-02	Control of rising groundwater and salinity in the Koojan – Gillingarra region	195,000	Oct-05	Sep-08	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	
NACC - IP1	04N104-04	Brushwood Industry Development on Saline Land	232,750	Oct-05	Sep-06	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	
NACC	NACC 67-04	Bio-diverse Commercial Direct Seeding	343,900	Jan-06	Sep-06	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	358,115
Federal - Envirofunds	Envirofund Project 51287	Protection & Rehabilitation of wind Eroded Soils	2,972	Apr-06	Jun-06	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	
Federal - Envirofunds	Envirofund project 59105	Completing creekline rehabilitation & stabilisation works at Windridge farm	11,243	Nov-06	May-08	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	
NACC - IP2	04N115-04	Brushwood Industry Development on Saline Land	459,500	Jan-07	Sep-08	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	769,092
NACC - IP2	05N115-03	Control of rising groundwater and salinity in the Koojan – Gillingarra region	209,000	Feb-07	Mar-09	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	
National Action Plan	NAP -063045	Creating Productive Saltbush Pastures on Saline Land	100,592	Jul-07	Jun-08	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	
Federal - C4oC	A03287G	Productive saltbush pastures to combat wind erosion in the Moore River Catchment	95,500	Aug-08	Feb-11	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	

Funding Body	Project ID	Project Name	Funding received	Start Date	Completion Date	Status	Total funding approved per year
Federal - C4oC	OG083957	Increased Adoption of Sustainable Brushwood Production	246,500	Dec-08	Nov-09	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	342,000
NACC - IP2	051NRMO-10	NRMO - 2FTE	468,855	Jan-09	Sep-09	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	527,319
NACC	08N06-01-03	NRMO - 2FTE	58,464	Oct-09	Dec-09	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	
State NRM	State NRM 09047	Recovery and Protection of Moore River Catchments Threatened Natural Assets	199,800	Apr-10	Sep-11	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	511,728
NACC	08N10-06	NRMO - 2FTE	116,928	Jan-10	Jun-10	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	
NACC	21150	NRMO - 2FTE	195,000	Jul-10	Jun-11	Final Report and Acquittal Requirement both accepted	
NACC	3-MCC-10	Wind Erosion	159,000	Jul-11	Dec-12		314,133
NACC	3-MCC-13	Coastal Project	39,750	Jul-11	Dec-12		
NACC	3-MCC-14	Hidden Treasures	66,250	Jul-11	Dec-12		
NACC	3-08N13-05-08	Coastal biodiversity discovery days: No 1 - Coastal birds of Guilderton	3,833	Nov-11	May-12		
NACC	08005-12	Working together to ensure the long-term sustainability of water resources in the greater Gingin Area	15,000	Jun-11	Jul-12		
State NRM	State NRM 10023	Improving habitat and connectivity in the farming landscape for birds in the Moore River catchment.	30,300	Nov-11	Sep-12		

Funding Body	Project ID	Project Name	Funding received	Start Date	Completion Date	Status	Total funding approved per year
NACC	38N10-09-45	Demonstrating elite fodder shrubs for future productive use in the NAR	6,300	Apr-12	Oct-12		19,700
Federal - C4oC	CAG11-00129	Demonstrating elite fodder shrubs for future productive use in the NAR	13,400	Feb-12	Jun-13		
TOTAL			4,259,024				4,259,024

Appendix G

Presentation Slides – Carmel Ross – Facilitator Input and Discussion Questions

<p>Welcome...</p>  <p>Moore Catchment Council</p> <p>Future Options Workshop 21 May 2012</p> <p><small>© Carmel Ross Consulting Pty Ltd</small></p> 	<p>Purpose – the future of the Moore Catchment Council</p> <p>We ask you to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>the needs and possibilities of the Moore River and its catchment lands</i>• <i>the needs of users</i>• <i>the needs of the environment</i>• <i>what initiatives could / should be undertaken</i>• <i>what funding streams might be accessed</i>• <i>the role of the MCC in leading the conservation and sustainable usage of the Moore River and its catchment lands</i> <p><small>Moore Catchment Council Future Options Workshop</small></p>
<p>Topics</p>  <p><small>Moore Catchment Council Future Options Workshop</small></p>	<p>Outcomes and follow-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A list of recommendations and ideas from this group• Collated into a report (not a long one)• Distributed to stakeholders not able to be here today for feedback by a set date• Input collated and a final report prepared• Report given to MCC for consideration and decisions <p><small>Moore Catchment Council Future Options Workshop</small></p>

The State of the Moore River & its Catchment Lands

- *What seemed really important?*
- *What did you hear that you weren't aware of?*
- *What encouraged you?*
- *What questions arose – what do you want to know more about?*
- *What issues and ideas did you think of?*
- *Are there concerns and issues not mentioned in the talk by Rachel?*

Have a chat with your neighbour, and jot down the major things we should remember

Intro to Moore Catchment Council

Founded in 1995, the Moore Catchment Council is made up of a group of community and shire representatives from shires in the Northern Agricultural region of Western Australia.

Each shire is directly associated with the Moore River catchment and drainage system, covering in all some 1.38million hectares and stretching from Perenjori in the north east to Gingin in the south, where the river meets the Indian Ocean at Guilderton.

The Council group is supported by Northern Agricultural Catchment Council, Federal and State government agencies

Moore Catchment Council Future
Options Workshop

Moore Catchment Council Objects

- 3.1 The objects of the group are to work with the community and natural resource agencies to coordinate integrated land and water management actions within the Moore River Catchment such that:
- (a) The stewardship of natural resources ensures a continuing yield of economic, social and environmental benefits;
 - (b) There is fair and equitable access to natural resources, while sharing the cost burden associated with resource use, for both present and future generations; and
 - (c) That economic efficiency is balanced by responsiveness to the environmental and social costs associated with the use of limited resources.

Moore Catchment Council Future
Options Workshop

Objects to be achieved by:

- (a) Working with Statutory Government Bodies, other natural resource agencies and other stakeholder groups concerned with long term benefit of the region
- (b) Embracing the concept that water and land are the basic elements relating to health and development of the region;
- (c) Working within the natural boundaries of the Moore River Catchment being mindful of social boundaries
- (d) Promoting land and water conservation practices and sustainable land use.
Taking into account:-
 - All the tributaries in the catchment
 - Both surface and ground water systems
 - The various soil types and their current stability
 - The natural flora and fauna – Biodiversity – of the catchment
 - The need to encourage tax credits and non-government funding to the catchment
 - Salinity action initiatives
- (e) Promoting sustainable coastal and estuary development

Moore Catchment Council Future
Options Workshop

Identity and Vision

The **Moore Catchment Council** is a community body elected from the sub-region to represent the community interest in Natural Resource Management issues to the communities of the Moore River Catchment and the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council.

The **vision** of the Moore Catchment Council is that there will be a stronger link between people, the economy and the environment.

Moore Catchment Council Future
Options Workshop

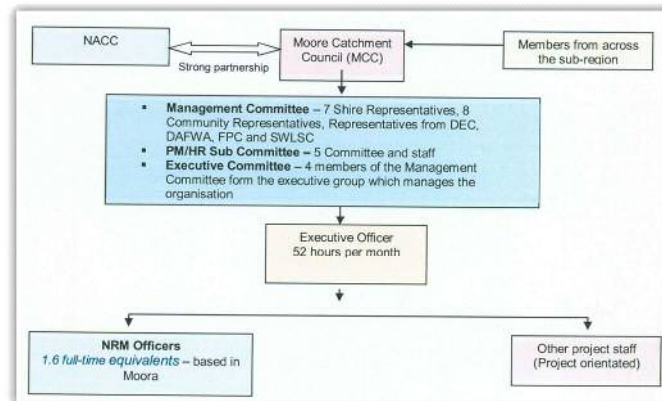
Philosophy and Role

The **philosophy** of the Moore Catchment Council is to protect and continue to enhance our natural resources so we have something of value to pass on to our children.

The **role** of the Moore Catchment Council is to promote integrated catchment management and to co-ordinate efforts in the river catchment to get the most effective action on the ground.

Moore Catchment Council Future
Options Workshop

Structure & Governance of MCC



Moore Catchment Council Future
Options Workshop

The Moore Catchment Council

- What was news to you about the work of the MCC?
- Of the work / projects the MCC has undertaken, which three do you believe are the most important? Why?
- What is the MCC doing that no one else seems to be doing?
- What issues and ideas are you aware of that could/should be addressed by the MCC but are not in their portfolio at the moment?
- If gaining funds was not a problem, what other work should the MCC be involved in?

Have a chat with your neighbour, and jot down the major things we should remember

Moore Catchment Council Future
Options Workshop

Sustainability

- Once upon a time: *Take – Make – Waste*
- More recently: *Reduce – Reuse – Recycle*
- Emerging approach: *Economic capacity is dependent on ecological capacity; for users at all levels, resource throughput is contained within ecological limits.*



Council Future
Workshop

Sustainability - Some scary stats

- James Bradfield-Moody, CSIRO, *The Sixth Wave*: *Current approaches are incapable of achieving the sustainability outcomes necessary to continue economic growth without compromising standards of living.*
- United Nations: *On a 'business as usual' trajectory, resource demands will be equivalent to 15 Earths by 2050.*
- UN: *Right now, the global economy is consuming resources at close to double the carrying capacity of our planet.*

Source: Sarah Barker, Beyond the Carbon Debate, Company Director, May 2012.

Moore Catchment Council Future
Options Workshop

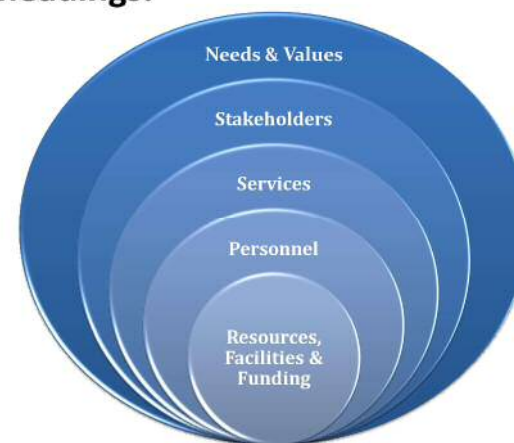
Natural resource / environmental management

The industry is broad in its description and includes:

- Sustainability, addressing the triple bottom line of economical, environmental and social
- Land Management related to both primary production and conservation
- Adaptation to climate / seasonal variability
- Biodiversity management, including terrestrial, coastal & marine and water resource management (relatively little coastal land in MCC region)

Moore Catchment Council Future
Options Workshop

Some headings:



Stakeholders

Broadacre farmers	Indigenous peoples (incl. Sacred sites)
Shire Councils	Landowners / family landowners
NGO's	Government depts; state & C'wealth (DEC, Water, Ag, Health, Planning etc)
Interest groups – recreational users, etc	Mining industry, gas, oil, mineral sands, bauxite, dolomite, granite, haemotite
Environment (land, flora, fauna, river)	Business owners / managers
Developers	Environmental groups, including LCDC's, Friends of Moore R, etc
Communities along the river	Metropolitan population
Schools / students	Tourism industry

Moore Catchment Council Future
Workshop – Input

Personnel & Partnerships

- Paid staff
- Grant funded staff (short-term)
- Volunteers (local & overseas)
- Partnerships
- Government departments (state and Commonwealth)
- Universities (grant funded research projects)
- Schools
- Other groups with an NRM or environmental focus
- Anyone else?

Moore Catchment Council Future
Options Workshop

Chittering Landcare Centre

Comprises:

- *Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment Group, Chittering Landcare Group, North Swan Landcare Group and Wannamal Lakes Catchment Group*

Tertiary Links:

- *Edith Cowan University, University of W.A., Swan TAFE*

Moore Catchment Council Future
Options Workshop

Chittering Landcare Centre

Services provided:

- Design, develop and carry out landcare and river restoration projects in partnership with you;
- Access to natural resource management information and networks;
- Organize volunteer tree planting;
- Provide on site visits to assess your landcare needs;
- Apply to grants for on-ground work on your behalf;
- Organise workshops and field days about environmental issues that concern you;
- Analyse your water for salinity and acidity.

Moore Catchment Council Future
Options Workshop

West Midlands Group

- Programmes are:
 - *Research and Development (R&D) committee.*
 - *Natural Resource Management (NRM) committee.*
 - *Women's committee*
- Sponsors are:
 - *Summit Fertilisers; SACOA; Tiwest; CBH Group; Rabobank; McIntosh & Sons; Landcorp; Bayer; CSBP; RSM Bird Cameron*
- Focus areas are: *Local research; Investment in research; Funding support; Advocacy; Events*
- Income streams July-Dec 2011: *Grants, sponsors, membership fees*

Moore Catchment Council Future
Options Workshop

Caring for our Country Priorities – until 2012 budget...

- Northern and remote Australia
- Community skills, knowledge and engagement
- National Reserve system
- Biodiversity and natural icons
- Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats
- Sustainable farm practices



Moore Catchment Council Future
Options Workshop

Caring for our Country 2013 →

From July 2013, Caring for our Country will be delivered through **two specific streams – one dedicated to sustainable environment, and the other to sustainable agriculture.**

"Separate streams will allow for greater emphasis on the role farming communities play in keeping our land productive, and the projects that are needed to support their efforts," Senator Ludwig said.

A second phase of consultation regarding the future direction of the program will take place over coming months.

Media release, Hon Tony Burke, 8 May 2012

Moore Catchment Council Future
Options Workshop

Funding models / options:

- Remain totally **grant funded**, with NRM focus
- **Sponsorship** – possible loss of independence, and need to identify benefits for sponsor
- **Donors and benefactors** – personnel have not been available to pursue this
- Undertake **professional services on a fee for service basis**, e.g., Chittering Landcare Centre
- **Carbon trading** initiatives – Carbon Quest (NACC)
- **Biosecurity funding**
- **Levies** within shires – requires business case & lobbying
- **Membership fundraising, bequests**
- **What are the advantages & disadvantages of each of these?**

Moore Catchment Council Future
Options Workshop

Outcomes and follow-up

- A list of recommendations and ideas from this group
- Collated into a report (not a long one)
- Distributed to stakeholders not able to be here today for feedback by a set date
- Input collated and a final report prepared
- Report given to MCC for consideration and decisions

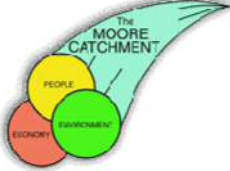
Moore Catchment Council Future
Options Workshop

*Thank you for your presence
and your contribution to the
workshop*



Appendix H

Presentation slides – Group Input – All Sessions

 <h2>Moore Catchment Council Futures Workshop Input</h2> <p>© Carmel Ross Consulting Pty Ltd</p>	<h3>State of the Moore River & its Catchment Lands</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ How is the river changing?<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Increasing sediment▪ Changes in drainage therefore changing depth etc▪ Changes in rainfall▪ Salinity▪ Rising water table▪ Research urgently needed on the above issues, for the entire Moore River system▪ Population pressure in southern region (around where estuary is at Guilderton) increasing – city-based lifestyle farmers <p>Moore Catchment Council Futures Workshop – Input</p>
<h3>Needs of the Moore River & its catchment lands</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Health of the river; environment▪ Research required▪ Routes of underground water flows▪ Document history of area/river etc▪ Baseline information needed▪ Large & diverse group of stakeholders▪ Raise profile of river and catchment lands, both inland and coastal▪ Whole river as backbone of catchment lands <p>Moore Catchment Council Futures Workshop – Input</p>	<h3>Needs of the Moore River & its catchment lands</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Social differences around region, e.g., impact on usage and attitudes from differing rainfalls▪ Impact of visibility – better where it looks like a river▪ Research with users re how they use the river, what it means to them, etc.▪ Education throughout river region▪ Only 3 major urban areas – Moora, Guilderton, Gingin <p>Moore Catchment Council Futures Workshop – Input</p>

Needs of the River

- Use of underground water routes, where this is used, impact on river of lower water flow
- Old river meandering system – needs of valley areas, increased salinity, cropping with higher nutrient impact on river
- NATURAL resource management

Moore Catchment Council Futures Workshop – Input

Stakeholders

Broadacre farmers	Indigenous peoples (incl. Sacred sites)
Shire Councils	Landowners / family landowners
NGO's	Government depts; state & C'wealth (DEC, Water, Ag, Health, Planning etc)
Interest groups – recreational users, etc	Mining industry, gas, oil, mineral sands, bauxite, dolomite, granite, haemotite
Environment (land, flora, fauna, river)	Business owners / managers
Developers	Environmental groups, including LCDC's, Friends of Moore R, etc
Communities along the river	Metropolitan population
Schools / students	Tourism industry

Moore Catchment Council Futures Workshop – Input

Moore Catchment Council Overview

- Need for solid grant management skills
- Need for solid business & financial admin skills
- Need for excellent stakeholder engagement skills
- Need for effective organisational structure and governance (shire structure for membership?)
- Issue of independence – extent to which funding sources influence decision-making of group
- Instability of grant funding
- Need for grants to be under separate contracts
- Relationship with NACC

Moore Catchment Council Futures Workshop – Input

MCC Group Input

- Strong environmental focus
- Community awareness / education / communication needed
- Higher level of involvement needed – yet reticence re how much will be asked of people
- Grow membership base – charge for membership?
- To grow revenue, work towards a rates levy?
- Structure is cumbersome – restructure needed, should be smaller
- Relationships with other agencies - partnerships

Moore Catchment Council Futures Workshop – Input

MCC Group Input

- Good at making community contact
- Some crossover into 'grower group territory'
- Lost contact with government agencies due to funding and staffing changes
- Moore River not on the high priority list
- 300 members – good communication, still room to improve

Moore Catchment Council Futures Workshop – Input

Values

- Appreciation of the river & catchment
- Sound environmental management
- Protection of the river & catchment
- Openness, accessibility, involvement for members and supporters

Moore Catchment Council Futures Workshop – Input

Committee - restructuring options

- 21 at present, yet ~5 attend meetings
- Have agencies as consultants to committee, not members
- Only 2 of these are shire reps
- Option of one per shire, with backup option
- All members are appointed, not elected
- Executive / office bearers are elected
- Meetings are moved around, usually include speaker, tour, etc.
- Committee may need different skill set
- Use videoconferencing, teleconferencing
- Cumbersome committees - overlap

Moore Catchment Council Futures Workshop – Input

What has the MCC got to sell?

- An honest broker in Carbon Trading
- Environmental offset management
- Waste management expertise
- Project management for environmental issues
- Expertise in managing roadside revegetation, biodiversity, monitoring these (asset management)
- Biosecurity – fee for service, project management
- Events relating to NRM

Moore Catchment Council Futures Workshop – Input

Future Needs & Options

- Research – need to understand profile of the Moore River system; gather research findings already available; coordinate on-going research; raise research questions
- Monitoring the condition of the river and its catchment
- Lobbying – a voice for the river and its catchment
- Educate people; skilled communication
- **Protect & preserve the Moore River**

Moore Catchment Council Futures Workshop – Input

Future Needs & Options

- Review / restructure the Committee of the MCC
- Lift MCC profile; coordinate groups within MC system
- Source additional funding options, including fee-for-service
- Promote respectful, appropriate use of the river & catchment, whether social or economic/industrial
- Provide sound input, especially to government bodies, into future development of the entire MC region

Moore Catchment Council Futures Workshop – Input

Appendix I

General Information on the West Midlands Group and the Chittering Landcare Centre

West Midlands Group¹¹

West Midlands Group is a developing grower group currently servicing Badgingarra, Dandaragan, West Moora, Regans Ford, Warradarge, Eneabba and the West Midlands coast.

The West Midlands Group is your local grower group. It's here to provide a local focus on crop and pasture research, natural resource management and the role of women in agriculture. Our local focus ensures you get up-to-date information that's relevant to your business. You'll save hours of your valuable time normally wasted trying to actually find the information you really need.

West Midlands Group has three program areas, each represented by a sub-committee:

- *Research and Development (R&D) committee.*
- *Natural Resource Management (NRM) committee.*
- *Women's committee.*

These programs operate to provide the following services to our members:

- **Local research:** *coordinated local agricultural research and development.*
- **Investment in research** *by partnering with industry, government and research entities to grow research investment in our region.*
- **Funding support:** *assisting members to obtain funding to address local production and NRM issues.*
- **Advocacy:** *making sure the needs and priorities of the West Midlands region are being heard and addressed at all levels of Government.*
- **'Bottom line' events:** *locally focussed events for our members*

Note: Sponsors listed on the website are Summit Fertilizers; Rabobank; CBH Group; SACOA; TiWest; and Shire of Dandaragan.

Chittering Landcare Group¹²

Focus areas listed on the website are catchments, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, and aquatic systems.

Through a joint venture partnership formed with TiWest in 1998, an old building was made available and converted into a community landcare centre, out of which the group operates.

Services we offer you:

- *Design, develop and carry out landcare and river restoration projects in partnership with you;*
- *Access to natural resource management information and networks;*
- *Organize volunteer tree planting;*
- *Provide on site visits to assess your landcare needs;*

¹¹ Source: www.wmgroup.org.au

¹² Source: www.chitteringlandcare.org.au

- *Apply to grants for on-ground work on your behalf;*
- *Organise workshops and field days about environmental issues that concern you;*
- *Analyse your water for salinity and acidity.*

The Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment Group is now the umbrella group of the Ellen Brockman Sub-region working with many community groups to deliver natural resource management outcomes within the Swan Catchment. These groups are:

- *Chittering Valley Land Conservation District Committee*
- *North Swan Land Conservation District Committee*
- *Gingin Land Conservation District Committee*
- *Wannamal Lake Catchment Group Inc.*
- *Marbling Brook Catchment Group*
- *Friends of Groups*

Educational partnerships are listed with Edith Cowan University, University of Western Australia and Swan TAFE.