

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee



Lower Blackwood Catchment
Land Conservation District Committee



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A Word from the Chair

2023 has been a difficult and challenging year. International events, economic headwinds, increasing local development pressure and the regulation changes that brings, some shifting relationships with some farming and environmental groups and of course, the on again off again Aboriginal Cultural Heritage act all contributed to a demanding and uncertain year.

Luckily, I have had the privilege of being the chair of a great and wise committee that have always supported myself and the staff during these challenges. Without them and their constant support and guidance, we would of had much worse outcomes for both the LCDC, the environment, and agriculture in this area that we all care about so deeply.

But also, none of this would be possible without our wonderful and hardworking staff.

They have done a fantastic job securing and managing an array of projects in our area that support our landholders and work towards improving the health of the Catchment. I am also personally grateful for their support during meetings and through some challenging issues. Their enthusiasm and passion is obvious in the work that they do and the outcomes they achieve.

The LCDC committee has also been bolstered with some new members who have contributed strongly from day one and I look forward to their input in the future and together, with our long-term survivors of many years of Landcare battles, have supported and encouraged me all year. I would also like to thank the partners and families of our committee members and staff for their support and sacrifices as well.

Tim Crimp
Chair

About Us



Lower Blackwood LCDC is registered as a Land Conservation District Committee under the Soil and Conservation Act (1945). Our mandate to operate is articulated through our vision:

“To promote a sustainable agriculture community in the Blackwood region, where sustainability is measured in economic, social and environmental terms.”

Our Committee currently consists of 18 members, including farmers, landowners and representatives from the Augusta-Margaret River Shire, Nannup Shire, Department of Agriculture and Food, Department of Parks and Wildlife, WAFarmers and the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA.

Our Objectives

- Objective 1:** To develop and enhance the profile of the LCDC
- Objective 2:** To coordinate and provide expert and independent advice to farmers, land managers and other NRM stakeholders on sustainable land use.
- Objective 3:** To identify future needs for productive and sustainable agriculture.
- Objective 4:** To maintain and improve the health of the environment and waterways through sustainable farming by minimising pollution and providing support for ecosystem management.
- Objective 5:** To identify and support value adding elements of farming through improved economic and marketing support.

2022-23 in Focus

Commitment from over 85 Lower Blackwood Land Managers to participate in LCDC on-ground projects in 2022-23 including whole farm soil testing, weed control, trials of new practices to improve soil health, regen ag on-farm demo sites, vineyard biodiversity, feral pig control land access, & riparian restoration.

Engagement & delivery of information to over 1000 catchment landholders and LCDC subscribers.

Launch and growth of the LCDC's online community forum and information hub 'Talkin' After Hours'

Gathering data and information on the impact of feral pigs in our Catchment as part of our monitoring and control program Feral Pig Focus - Protecting the Scott Coastal Plain



Our Projects



Regen Ag in Practice - Farm ecosystems for a sustainable future (AMR Shire)

\$40,000 over 1 year

Building on the last 3 years of programs with a focus on Peer Group Learning



Healthy Estuaries WA (DWER)

\$1,109,000 over 4 years

Building on the work completed in the Regional Estuaries Initiative



Scott River Action Implementation Strategy & on-ground action (State NRM)

\$198,030 over 3 years

Developing an implementation strategy for the Scott River Action Plan and undertaking Stage 1 on-ground action



AMR Shire Operating Grant (AMR Shire)

\$135,000 over 3 years

Supporting the LCDC to deliver projects that contribute towards the health of the Lower Blackwood Catchment and support the landholders that reside and produce within it.



Improving Farm Soil Health and Resilience through Biodiversity (Future Drought Fund)

\$90,145 over 1 year

On-farm demonstrations of pasture biodiversity to improve soil health



Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development



natural resource management program



Shire of Nannup
rest • connect • grow



National Landcare Program





Our Projects



EcoVineyards (Wine Australia and Retallack Viticulture)

\$40,800 over 3 years

Supporting wine grape growers to enhance soil health and increase functional biodiversity in their vineyards



WeedWork (State NRM)

\$35,000 over 1 year

Supporting landholders to control declared weeds and weedy wattles



Filling the Autumn FeedGap (MLA)

\$100,000 over 4 years

Demonstrating the potential of autumn grazed fodder crops



SoilWise (DWER)

\$156,382 over 1 year

Landholder engagement program to promote best practice sustainable agriculture so that farmers can increase productivity and profitability, whilst protecting and improving the condition of natural resources



Feral Pig Focus - Protecting the Scott Coastal Plain (State NRM)

\$437,404 over 3 years

On-ground action to address the increasing feral pig threat on the Scott Coastal Plain



COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT 2023

How did we do?



1005 Contacts | 239 New Contacts | 71,249 Sends



36 Events: Workshops/Field Walks (27) | Seminars (4) | Webinars (5) | Roadshows (2)



1067 Participants



107 Online Community Members | 7 Forums | 6 Groups | 8 Discussions



12 Podcast Conversations | 10,702 Unique Downloads



3 Major Content Hubs, 24 Knowledge Bank Deposits



860 YouTube Subscribers | 32,600 Views | 7,900 Hours of Viewing



594 Facebook Fans | 754 Followers | 162 Posts | 21,614 Reach



TALKIN' After Hours

Read :: Watch :: Listen :: Chat
with the Lower Blackwood LCDC



Talkin' After Hours: Our Online Community Forum & Information Hub

We created Talkin' After Hours to give our farming community the opportunity to have conversations, share knowledge, skills & practices in a no stress, no judgement, easy access space – any time & anywhere.

It might be a bold claim, but we think that Talkin' After Hours is so much more – more relevant, more engaging, more interactive, & more constructive, than the usual facebook group, twitter feed, blog or website page, and with the Talkin' After Hours Mobile App you can access content, tune in or connect where ever you are.

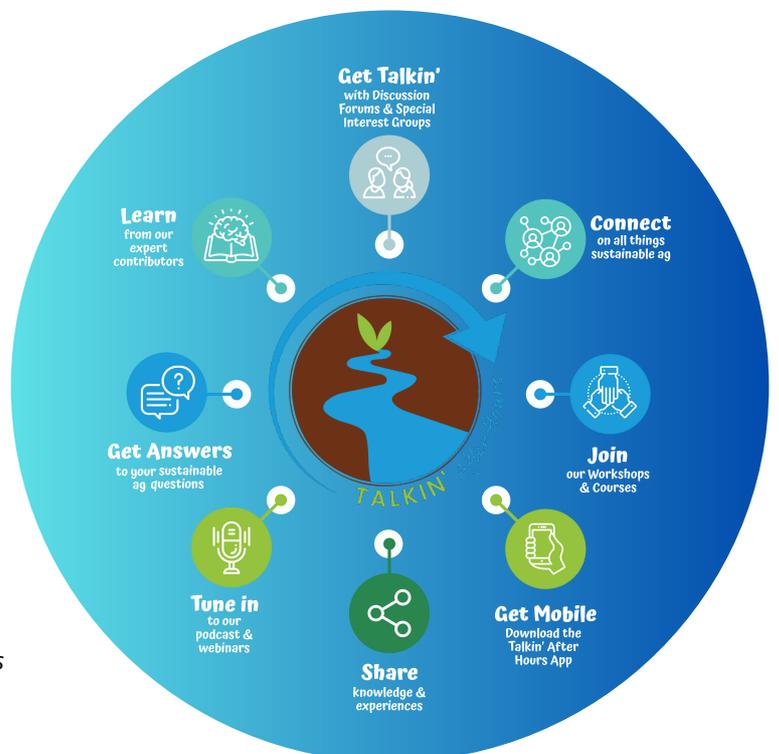
What else is different about Talkin' After Hours? Our focus is on all things sustainable agriculture relevant to land managers here in the south west of Western Australia. As a result, the information that we share, and the content we develop is based on:

- what's important to land managers here,
- applying external know how and research, to our context here,
- our own experiences & learnings from projects, trials, demonstrations, and events we undertake here in the region.

So join us & start Talkin' now!

<https://lowerblackwood.com.au/talkin-after-hours/>

Our thanks for the ongoing support of our sponsor, Soil Wise. Soil Wise is funded by the National Landcare Program Smart Farms Small Grants – an Australian Government initiative. It is supported by Healthy Estuaries WA – a State Government program.





Our Key Partners



Lower Blackwood Catchment
Land Conservation District Committee

We have also continued to strengthen our relationships with our very valued and long standing key partners. These partnerships are vital in assisting us to achieve our goals and vision:

Shire of Augusta-Margaret River

Shire of Nannup

Department of Water and Environment Regulation

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Western Dairy

Lower South West Growers Group

Lower Blackwood Vertebrate Pest Management Group

South West Catchments Council

Nature Conservation

Augusta-Margaret River Clean Community Energy

Margaret River Wine Association

We thank our partners for their encouragement and support, and we look forward to their continued support over the coming year.



Our Finances

Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee

Profit & Loss Statement

July 2022 To June 2023

PO Box 42

Karridale WA 6288

ABN: 70 232 307 734

Email: admin@lowerblackwood.com.au

Income		
Funding Income	\$595,147.32	
Other Income	\$167,901.83	
Total Income		\$763,049.15
Gross Profit		\$763,049.15
Expenses		
Project Employment	\$445,722.63	
Project Expenses	\$408,850.79	
Corporate Overheads	\$70,449.88	
Total Expenses		\$925,023.30
Operating Profit		-\$161,974.15
Total Other Expenses		\$0.00
Net Profit/(Loss)		-\$161,974.15

Note: We had a large carryover from the previous financial year.



Our Finances

Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee

PO Box 42
Karridale WA 6288

ABN: 70 232 307 734

Email: admin@lowerblackwood.com.au

Balance Sheet

As of June 2023

Assets	
Bank Accounts	\$567,150.93
Trade Debtors	\$3,416.00
Assets	\$3,845.00
Motor Vehicles	\$21,194.72
Total Assets	\$595,606.65
Liabilities	
Trade Creditors	\$22,186.78
GST Liabilities	-\$2,603.07
Payroll Liabilities	\$28,739.05
Project Liabilities	\$459,400.04
Total Liabilities	\$507,722.80
Net Assets	\$87,883.85
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$249,343.09
Current Earnings	-\$161,974.15
Historical Balancing Account	\$514.91
Total Equity	\$87,883.85

Where to now?

2023-24 looks to be another busy and exciting year for the LBLCDC! Our 'Talkin' After Hours' online community and information hub is growing from strength to strength, our on-ground work will be continuing with our final year of Heathy Estuaries WA and we'll be working hard to raise awareness of the serious issue of feral pigs in our Catchment and seek funding to continue our feral pig control and monitoring program.



The Lower Blackwood LCDC has also continued to focus on seeking sources of funding for projects that support sustainable agriculture and land care in the Lower Blackwood Region for the including:

- Regenerative Agriculture in Practice 2024, with a focus on peer-to-peer groups and supporting our program alumni
- Trees on Farms: enhancing on-farm biodiversity, growing trees for productivity and trees for carbon
- Working with our neighbouring Catchment group on an integrated catchment plan for our special Blackwood River Catchment



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