Peel

The Peel region encompasses the five local government areas of Boddington, Murray, Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Waroona Shires and the City of Mandurah. Located 75 km south of Perth, it is Western Australia’s smallest region geographically and includes Mandurah, the second fastest growing regional city in Australia.

**Size:** 5,648 km²  
**Population:** 112,677  
**Regional centre:** Mandurah

**SuperTowns:** Boddington  
**Key industries:** Mining, construction, manufacturing, retail, tourism, agriculture, forestry and fishing

### Arts and culture across the region

- There are over 25 community arts, heritage and cultural organisations in Mandurah.
- Mandurah Performing Arts Centre (MPAC) operates as a cultural hub and supports the development of arts organisations in the Peel region. MPAC facilities include the Boardwalk Theatre, the Fishtrap Theatre and the Alcoa Mandurah Art Gallery.
- In 2013 MPAC won the Australian Performing Arts Centre Association’s Drover Award for the best performing art centre in the country.
- Pulse Productions WA is a regional youth performance group specialising in circus and physical theatre based in Mandurah.
- The Mandurah City Choral Society is a community choir that holds regular workshops and performs at festivals and events across the region.
- The Mandurah Concert Band performs at various events and festivals in the region.
- Riptide is a contemporary youth performance company for young people aged between 14 and 25.
- The City of Mandurah has developed an *Arts, Heritage and Cultural Strategy and a Social Infrastructure Plan*, which highlights the need for well-planned cultural facilities and programs.
- Regional Development Australia Peel is supporting the regions arts and cultural sector by hosting regular networking and information sharing opportunities for artists and arts workers.
- Contemporary Art Spaces Mandurah is managed by the City of Mandurah. It supports exhibition development and partnerships with artists, arts organisations and communities by providing low cost rental spaces, developmental assistance and information services for exhibitors.
- The Stretch Arts Festival is an annual regional community arts festival held in Mandurah. It offers a diverse program of quality performing and visual arts, workshops, exhibitions and film. The Stretch Arts Festival celebrates its 13th year in 2014.
- The Boddington Community Resource Centre is a hub for community groups and local arts activities, including a Youth Arts program.
- The FolkWorld Fairbridge Festival is an annual folk, roots and world music festival held near the town of Pinjarra. It is a major event on the WA cultural calendar.
Undertone by Victoria Gelmis,
Common Threads: Wearable Art,
Stretch Arts Festival Mandurah.
Photo by Kim Jameson.
• The Mungah Festival showcases culturally significant visual and performing arts by contemporary Noongar artists, including the Bindjareb Art Award.

• The Murray Arts and Craft Society and the Liveringa Art Gallery and Craft Shop support artists and crafters in the Peel region.

• Regional Development Australia Peel is implementing the _Peel Digital Futures Strategy_ and has developed an options paper with specific recommendations on arts and cultural development in the region.

**Department of Culture and the Arts funding in the region**

Recipients of DCA funding in the region include the Mungah Festival, Mandurah’s Riptide and Pulse Productions and various individual artists.

**Arts and cultural priorities in the region**

Outcomes from focus group consultations provide valuable insight into regional priorities that will guide the collaborative development of future initiatives by government, arts organisations and the local community. Regional priorities as raised by participants of the Peel focus group include:

• Providing funding and skills development support to enable local artists and the community to make the most of the National Broadband Network (NBN). Mandurah is an NBN pilot roll out site.

• Providing artists and organisations in the Peel region with assistance to improve grant writing skills in order to access Government arts funding.

• Developing a coordinated approach to capacity building for arts and cultural organisations across the region.

• Providing training in governance skills to ensure arts and cultural community groups operate more cohesively, have formal structures and become more influential in the region.

• Developing a network of regional arts officers, which would be beneficial to the region. Currently only the City of Mandurah has an Arts and Cultural Officer.

• Providing relevant and accessible professional development toolkits, such as for governance, cultural mapping and building partnerships.

• Improving community access to philanthropic support for arts and culture.

**Region-specific actions**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Key Partners</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<td>4.3 Digital hubs</td>
<td>Regional Development Australia Peel (RDA Peel)</td>
<td>DCA will partner with RDA Peel and other key stakeholders to pilot a project aimed at improving the skills needed by professional artists to take advantage of opportunities that new technologies provide.</td>
<td>2015–16</td>
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Arts and Cultural Infrastructure

**Mandurah**
1. Mandurah Performing Arts Centre
2. Alcoa Mandurah Art Gallery
3. Riptide
4. Pulse Productions WA
5. Contemporary Art Spaces Mandurah
6. Stretch Arts Festival Mandurah
7. Mungah Festival
8. Ability Arts

**Boddington**
1. Boddington Community Resource Centre

**Pinjarra**
1. FolkWorld Fairbridge Festival
2. Pinjarra Katijin Aboriginal Corporation