

fitzroy
partnership
for river health



Memorandum of Understanding



Background

The Fitzroy Partnership for River Health (Partnership) formalises collaboration between governments, industry, community and research organisations with an interest in the health of the waterways of the Fitzroy Basin. This Memorandum of Understanding supports improved water resource management through the monitoring, assessment, reporting and communication of waterway health in the Fitzroy Basin.

Objectives

This Memorandum of Understanding sets out the arrangements agreed to support cooperation and collaboration between the parties to develop and implement an integrated waterway monitoring program that will report publicly on waterway health at the catchment scale and support improved water resource management by all sectors.

Scope

The scope of the Fitzroy Partnership for River Health encompasses all groundwaters, rivers, off-stream wetlands and estuaries in the Fitzroy Basin, and near-shore coastal and marine environments.

Roles and responsibilities

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding undertake to:

- Actively participate and contribute to the structures and processes established by the Partnership
- Provide financial support through the payment of an annual membership fee (set by the Management Committee) and additional financial contributions negotiated annually.
- Collaboratively develop and implement monitoring, assessment, reporting and communication activities
- Review and amend these arrangements as necessary to support the achievement of the Partnership's objectives.

Principles

The Partnership adopts the following principles:

- Inclusiveness – the Partnership will provide opportunities for all major resource users, managers and monitoring agencies to participate in and influence Partnership decisions and actions
- Transparency and accountability – the Partnership's decision-making processes are clear, accessible and responsible
- Scientific rigor and independence – the Partnership's monitoring, assessment, reporting and communication activities are conducted in a scientifically rigorous manner
- Integration and alignment – the Partnership's activities seek to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of regional waterway monitoring and management programs through coordination and collaboration across scales and sectors



- Adaptation– the Partnership will seek to actively evaluate and adjust its activities in response to the outcomes achieved and new knowledge available.
- Capacity building – the Partnership seeks to improve the capacity of all water resource managers to reduce their impacts on regional waterways.

Authority / Limits to authority

This Memorandum of Understanding is a non-binding expression of the intentions of the parties to work collaboratively towards the achievement of the Partnership objectives. There is no legal or financial obligation incurred through participation in this Memorandum of Understanding. The parties maintain their individual discretion to act independently.

Commencement, review and period of the Partnership

This Memorandum of Understanding will commence on 1 July, 2011 and will continue while at least 3 partner organisations support its activities. It is the intention of the parties to consider formal incorporation within the first 3 years of the Partnership.

The Memorandum of Understanding may be amended at any time by written mutual consent of all parties. Any partner wishing to withdraw from the Partnership may do so by written notice to the other parties. Any additional party wishing to join the Partnership may do so by signed agreement to this document and payment of the annual membership fee or by agreement of the Management Committee.

Operation

The Partnership shall operate through the following structures:

<i>Partner's Network</i>	
Objective	Forum that includes all parties to the Memorandum of Understanding. The Partner's Network will nominate and endorse a Management Committee. Provides strategic feedback to the Management Committee.
Membership	Representatives of all parties to the Memorandum of Understanding
Operation	Meets periodically (at least biannually). Engages with the Secretariat on operational matters. May contribute to groups established by the Secretariat for specific activities e.g. communications.
<i>Management Committee</i>	
Objective	To provide strategic oversight and direction to the activities of the Partnership.
Membership	Members nominated and endorsed by the Partner's Network, from the Partner's Network. Membership to comprise the host agency, major investors and a balance between extractive and primary industries, governments and other agencies. Membership reviewed every 2 years.
Operation	Meets regularly (at least quarterly). Oversees the Secretariat. Engages the Partner's Network in strategic decisions. May contribute to groups established by the Secretariat for specific activities e.g. communications.



<i>Science Advisory Panel</i>	
Objective	To provide science advice and quality assurance relevant to the Partnership, to the Management Committee and Secretariat.
Membership	Skills-based membership
Operation	Chair and panel appointed by the Management Committee. Meets periodically as required by the Management Committee (at least biannually)
<i>Technical Network</i>	
Objective	To provide the technical capacity to undertake monitoring, assessment, reporting and communication activities.
Membership	Scientific and technical staff drawn from the Partner's Network and other science providers engaged in Partnership activities.
Operation	Meets periodically as required to undertake collaborative and contracted technical Partnership activities. May contribute to groups established by the Secretariat for specific activities e.g. the development of monitoring protocols.
<i>Secretariat</i>	
Objective	To provide operational support to the Partnership.
Membership	Staff of the host organisation and others as appropriate.
Operation	Supports and administers all the Partnership groups. Managed by the host organisation, overseen by the Management Committee.
<i>Host organisation</i>	
Objective	To provide an institutional host for the Partnership Secretariat and Partnership activities (financial and staff management).
Operation	To contribute to Partnership decisions as a member of the Management Committee. To operationalise Partnership activities through management of the Partnership secretariat.

Membership

List the member organisations here.



Signed for and on behalf of

.....

(organisation)

this day of 20

by.....

(full name)

.....

(position)

who is a duly authorised officer

in the presence of:

.....

(full print name of witness)

.....

(signature)

.....

(signature of witness)