

Strategic Plan

2016-2021



The Partnership

The Fitzroy Partnership for River Health (the Partnership) is a formal collaboration between governments, industry, research organisations and community that have an interest in the health of waterways across the Fitzroy Basin. The management and use of land and water resources influence the Fitzroy Basin's waterways. Monitoring and reporting on the health and sustainable use of the Basin's waterways supports better resource management and an informed, engaged community.

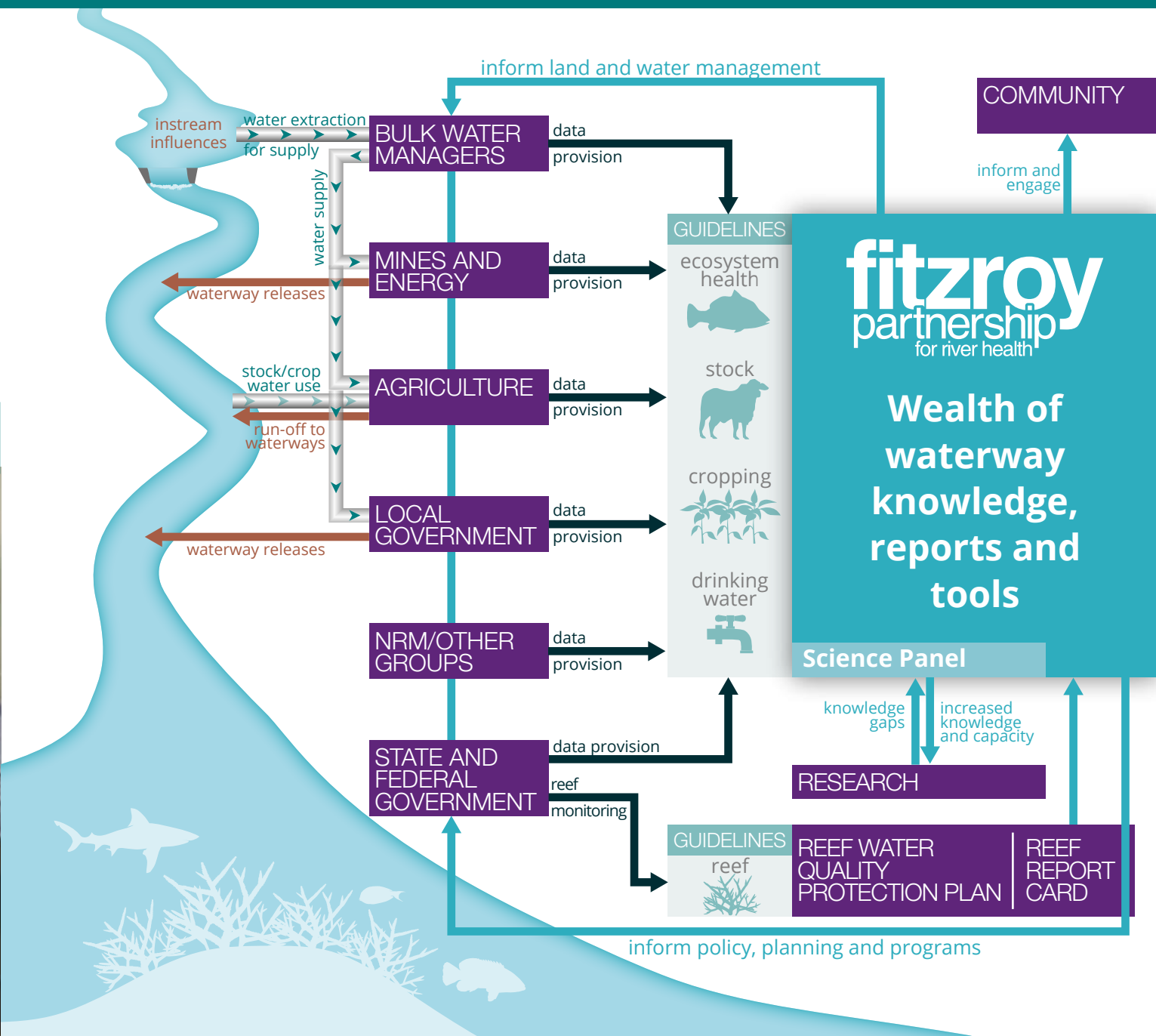
The Partnership's role

The role of the Partnership is to facilitate improved monitoring, to collate and assess data and information and publicly report on waterway health and sustainable use. The diagram to the right shows how Partnership activities inform policy, planning and resource management.

More information about the Partnership is available at www.riverhealth.org.au



Where the Partnership fits



Vision

Trusted information for healthy rivers in the Fitzroy Basin

Mission

To facilitate a partnership that publicly reports on the health and sustainable use of waterways to the Fitzroy community.

Focus and scope

All waters of the Fitzroy Basin including rivers, off-stream wetlands, groundwater, estuaries, near-shore coastal and marine environments, with a priority focus on river health.



Partnership principles

Partnership stakeholders

Partnership stakeholders with an interest in river health include:

- The community of the Fitzroy Basin
- Land and water managers including farmers and graziers, energy and resources companies and water resource managers
- Local, Queensland and Australian Governments.

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.



Vision

Trusted information for
healthy rivers in the
Fitzroy Basin

Goals

1 We will continue to be the
trusted source of waterway
information

2 We will inform policy and
planning decisions

3 We will build technical
assessment capacity

4 We will provide value for all
sectors

5 We will maintain a robust
business model

1 We will continue to be the trusted source of waterway information

The core goal of the Partnership is to collate and report accurate information about water quality and waterway health in the Fitzroy Basin. We will prepare and promote annual waterway health reports. Building on the current suite of ecological, drinking water and agricultural use products, we seek to include further environmental, social, economic, cultural and health information.

We will maintain independent scientific leadership to ensure the assessment process and reporting products are scientifically rigorous. The Partnership committee provides stakeholder oversight of the process to build knowledge and ensure local legitimacy.

We will strive to raise awareness and understanding of waterway health amongst stakeholders.

Building and maintaining stakeholder trust in Partnership information is a critical success factor.

Strategy

- 1.1** Prepare and promote annual reports of water quality and waterway health
 - Ecosystem health
 - Drinking water
 - Agricultural use
- 1.2** Maintain science panel and partner committee oversight
- 1.3** Raise stakeholder and community awareness and understanding of waterway health.

Critical success factor

Stakeholders and the community trust Partnership information.



2 We will inform policy and planning decisions

We seek to understand stakeholder needs for waterway health information that will allow us to tailor information products to meet those needs. We seek to inform decision-making processes through comprehensive information, rather than advocating for any particular decision.

We will inform the refinement of Water Quality Objectives that set regional water quality standards.

Providing information that can be used in relevant plans and policies is a critical success factor.

Strategy

2.1 Understand the needs of our stakeholders

- Land and water managers
- Government, and
- The community

2.2 Tailor information products to meet stakeholder needs

2.3 Inform refined Water Quality Objectives.

Critical success factor

Plans and policies use
Partnership information.



3 We will build technical assessment capacity

We seek to provide timely results and information products. We will develop innovative information products, through improving our reporting metrics, developing predictive capacity, visualisation of results, quantifying impacts and benefits of actions, and incorporating economic, social and cultural values.

We seek to assess and report on the adoption of water stewardship practices across priority sectors.

We seek to fill high priority monitoring gaps to improve assessment capacity.

Growing assessment capacity whilst maintaining science quality is a critical success factor.

Strategy

3.1 Provide timely results and information

3.2 Develop innovative information products

- Improve indicators and reporting metrics
- Develop predictive capacity
- Enhance visualisation of results
- Quantify the impact of land uses and the benefits of interventions
- Develop products that report the economic, social and cultural values of waterways

3.3 Report on stewardship practices across sectors

3.4 Fill priority monitoring gaps.

Critical success factor

Science quality is maintained and technical capacity is grown.



4 We will provide value for all sectors

We will seek to engage and provide value to all sectors involved in waterway use and management. We will tailor reporting products to better service member sectors. We will tailor Partnership events and media opportunities for individual sector requirements.

We will support member access and use of tools developed by the Partnership.

Maintaining membership and engagement across all sectors is a critical success factor.

Strategy

4.1 Tailor reporting products to member sectors

4.2 Support member use of Partnership tools

4.3 Tailor events and media opportunities for the benefit of members and the community.

Critical success factor

Membership is maintained across all sectors.



5 We will maintain a robust business model

We will adopt good governance practices, be accountable to members and the community and adapt to change. The Partnership will maintain solvency, manage performance, and be transparent and accountable. The Partnership will constructively support the growth and alignment of regional and Great Barrier Reef reporting.

We will seek business efficiencies through aligning with other reporting initiatives, adopting more efficient monitoring technologies and systems, and automating assessment where appropriate.

We will seek to grow revenue by increasing membership, products and services and leveraged research.

Maintaining the viability of the Partnership is a critical success factor.

Critical success factor

The Partnership remains a viable institution.



Strategy

5.1 Adopt good governance, accountability and adaptive practices

- Maintain solvency
- Monitor and manage governance and performance
- Maintain transparency and accountability

5.2 Seek business efficiencies

- Better align with regional and GBR reporting initiatives
- Facilitate monitoring efficiencies
- Automate assessment and reporting processes where appropriate
- Adopt online technologies to reduce costs

5.3 Grow revenue

- Grow membership
- Offer fee-for-service products and services
- Influence R&D by leveraging investment for priority projects.

We recognise our current partners for their significant contribution to a more complete picture of river health in the Fitzroy Basin:

Major partners



Partners



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This initiative is proudly hosted by Fitzroy Basin Association Inc.