

## Message from the Chair

This year Fitzroy Partnership for River Health reached a significant milestone in its history. With strong ongoing support from a committed number of foundation partners and a strength of participation across government, industry, resources, agriculture and research we launched our 10th Fitzroy Basin Report Card. We also released our inaugural *Stewardship Report: Being the change that is needed*. This momentous publication highlights some of the management responses our Partners make for a better water future for the Fitzroy Basin.



Daniel Yates, MMining,  
Chair FPRH

Our full partnership and Independent Science Panel met early in the year to workshop our strategic direction for coming years. The new Strategic Plan 2021 to 2024 was finalised in May, setting targets for a 10-year overall program review and a 10-year data review, as well as the development of new indicators and reporting areas to ensure our partnership and our waterway reporting remains relevant to partners and to the community.

Our Independent Science Panel has been charged with the 10-year-data review, and their expertise and guidance will inform any changes to our Reports. We thank the Panel, chaired by Associate Professor Eva Abal for their ongoing work scrutinising and assessing our annual Report Cards.

To support our Ecosystem Health Index Report and other environmental report cards, our team have collaborated with the regional report card groups in Queensland, Office of the Great Barrier Reef, AIMS and CSIRO to incorporate human dimensions into our reporting. Social surveys will be conducted this year to better understand how we all value our waterways.

Along with various other collaborations, we have also partnered more strongly with our closest neighbours Mackay Whitsundays Healthy Rivers to Reef in community engagement, including the St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend.

Another first for our region, was our development of the first indicative map that represents First Nations in the Fitzroy region. With the support of our host Fitzroy Basin Association we are proud to share a map which illustrates the 16 representative First Nations groups in the Fitzroy region. We look forward to continuing to communicate and engage with these groups to support greater community awareness of their role caring for country for more than 65,000 years.

There are changing times ahead for Fitzroy Partnership for River Health with the introduction of the new Regional Receiving Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP). I am confident our team comprising Management Committee, Executive Officer Leigh Stitz and her team will continue to navigate and secure strong results for our important collective as we move into a new phase.

I acknowledge each of our Partners for their commitment to independent waterway reporting for the Fitzroy Basin, and to strong cross-sector collaboration for a strong water future for this region.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters within the Fitzroy Basin where we conduct our reporting and pay our respects to them, their cultures and Elders past, present and emerging.



This map is a stylised representation of First Nations who are actively registered as cultural heritage parties/bodies, Native Title Applicants and Registered Native Title Prescribed Body Corporates (RNTBC) within the Fitzroy region in July 2021.

## Our Achievements

### Science

10th Ecosystem Health Report Card released for 2019-20



**525,860** results across **244** sites

utilised to assess the health of some 40,000 kilometres of waterways for 19-20 Report Card

High C grade overall for 19-20, down from low B grade in 18-19



All 12 Basin catchments scored B or higher for phys/chem indicators



1 new Science Project Officer employed supporting science and engagement



**407** barramundi recruits recorded underpinning estuary ecology A grade, the highest number recorded in 10 years of reporting



5th HeART of the Basin Scholarship awarded providing \$2,000 to support waterway health research in the Fitzroy region



### Communications & engagement

**7** **2000** report cards distributed to stakeholders and community



Major Partners and 16 Partners



**16** First Nations groups identified and communicated with to support publication of the first Fitzroy First Nations map



**6** Community and school groups events and activities educating more than 600 people about waterway health

Stewardship Report: *Being the change that is needed* released incorporating 11 water stewardship initiatives changing Fitzroy Basin's water future



New and improved Citizen Science in Action Water Sampling and Monitoring Guide launched and in use



More than **27,500** people viewed FPRH news and information on Facebook during 2020/2021



**9** mainstream media reports

in print, online and on Facebook featuring 2019-20 Report Card launch



### Statement of Income and Expenditure Fitzroy Partnership for River Health

#### 2020-21 (GST Ex)

Total income	\$781,895
Total expenditure	\$504,997

# Partnership linkages

Fitzroy Partnership for River Health is relevant to a range of regional plans and policies and our reporting links at the local, regional, State and National level. Some of these include:

## Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan

Our work aligns with Water Quality Action 23, to expand integrated water quality monitoring and report card programs in the Fitzroy Basin priority catchment.



## Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2013

Our report card is aligned to the GBR report card and utilises relevant data from monitoring programs within the Region.



Our reporting meets the requirements of the Queensland **State of the Environment** Indicators to measure the following six overarching Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets: good health and wellbeing, clean water and sanitation, responsible consumption and protection, life below water, life on land and partnerships for the goals.



## Water Quality Improvement Plan

The Partnership utilises the environmental condition information from the WQIP to ensure consistency for management priorities, environmental values and ecologically relevant targets.



We align our monitoring, management and research strategies with **CQSS2030 – Fitzroy Basin Association's Central Queensland Sustainability Strategy 2030** to provide a joint strategic direction for ongoing planning, practice and change.



We work closely with similar **monitoring and reporting initiatives** in South-East Queensland, Mackay, Gladstone, Townsville and the Wet Tropics.



## International Report Card Network

The Partnership founded and continues to contribute as a member of this network of report card practitioners.



## Major Partners



## Partners



## Who we are

### Management Committee



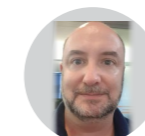
Dan Yates (Chair)  
MMining



Adam Christison  
Origin Energy



Elyse Riethmuller  
FBA



Tim Kendrick  
Anglo American



Nigel Burnett  
Cotton Australia



Katy Steele  
BHP BMA



Lu Wang  
Glencore



Rachel D'Arcy (Deputy  
Chair) OGBR



Cr Donna Kirkland, RRC



Frances Hayter  
QRC



John Anger  
Peabody



Patrice Brown  
CQG Consulting



Sam Tarlinton  
DRDMW



Tania Kennedy  
Kestrel

### Independent Science Panel



Assoc Prof Eva Abal  
(Chair)



Dr Roger  
Shaw



Dr Barbara  
Robson



Assoc Prof  
Nicole Flint



Assoc Prof  
Sue Vink



Dr John  
Platten



Assoc Prof  
Helen Stratton



Catherine  
Jones

### Staff



Dr Leigh Stitz



Braden Mitchell



Nicole Dendle

### Contact

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