



22 March 2021

#WorldWaterDay perfect time to reflect on water stewardship activities in Fitzroy

On 22 March every year, the United Nations celebrates and raises awareness of water via #WorldWaterDay, highlighting the 2 billion people in the world living without access to safe water.

In Australia and the Central Queensland region, while we experience both droughts and flooding rains, we are fortunate to have access to quality water, not only for safe drinking, but for urban, agricultural and industry use and for recreation.

This year in the Fitzroy region, local waterway collective, Fitzroy Partnership for River Health is launching a Stewardship Report on World Water Day to highlight the good work being done in the Fitzroy region by partner organisations, being the change that is needed for a better water future.

The Fitzroy Basin is the largest river system draining to Australia's east coast, containing almost 20,000 kilometres of waterways.

Waterway health reporting over 10 years by Fitzroy Partnership for River Health has shown a remarkably resilient river system averaging a low B to a high C grade for ecosystem health from 2011 – 2020, with A grade drinking water across the Rockhampton and Central Highlands Council areas included in the reporting.

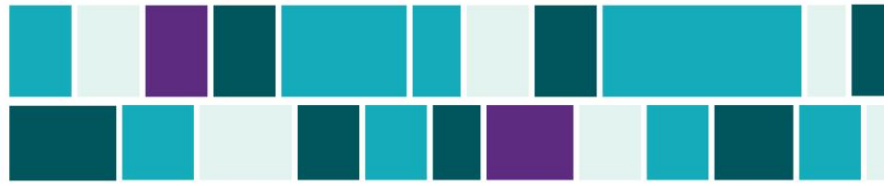
Executive Officer Dr Leigh Stitz said that while bad news often abounds, World Water Day is a good time to reflect on waterways in the region and to highlight that Central Queensland is fortunate to have a strong economy and industries reliant on good quality water, and governments, industry and community partners who are committed to protecting our precious natural assets.

The 2022 Fitzroy Partnership for River Health Stewardship Report showcases a range of good news stories in agriculture, mining, research, natural resource management and government including work being done by BHP, Sunwater, Cotton Australia, Kestrel Coal, FBA, CQUniversity, Rockhampton Regional Council and the Queensland and Australian Governments.

Chair of Fitzroy Partnership for River Health, Katy Steele said the Stewardship Report allows the Partnership to showcase the diverse work being undertaken to create a better water future in the region.

“From landmark projects such as Rookwood Weir working to mitigate and offset potential impacts; resource companies engaging, enabling and empowering Traditional Owners to support care for country; the implementation of traps in urban settings to stop sediment and pollution entering waterways to agricultural enterprises using knowledge and peer mentoring to create more sustainable businesses, there is much being done,” Mrs Steele said.

“World Water Day in 2022 is focused particularly on groundwater – making the invisible visible, and our Report showcases another partner Kestrel Coal who has worked with neighbouring landowners at Kestrel Coal near Emerald to better understand groundwater at their operations,” she said.



“Fitzroy Partnership for River Health brings together a unique collective of organisations committed to waterway health in this region, and we will continue to act as an agent of change and to promote to our partners and to the community the good work that is being done in water management in this region.”

“It is through the promotion of positive action and management change that transformation happens in our organisations, our industries and our communities.”

“We encourage community members to visit our website to understand the positive actions being taken in the Fitzroy Region for a better water future - <https://riverhealth.org.au/water-stewardship/>

Follow the Fitzroy Partnership for River Health journey on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FitzroyPartnership4RiverHealth>. Find out more about World Water Day at <https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

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