

Water round table to address Central Queensland's water future

Leading experts from throughout Queensland will descend on Rockhampton today to address the key issues in water management as part of 10-year celebrations for water quality collective Fitzroy Partnership for River Health.

Established in 2012 as a result of concern about water quality in the Fitzroy region, the Partnership brings together stakeholders from government, resources, agriculture, industry and community to independently assess and report on water quality across the Fitzroy Basin and will celebrate its 10th birthday with a Water Management Round Table and Gala Dinner in Rockhampton.

Chair of Fitzroy Partnership for River Health Ms Katy Steele said the Water Management Round Table would include three panel sessions bringing together experts in water management from various partner bodies and industries across Queensland to drive the direction for the Partnership for the next ten years to 2032.

"We are honoured to also have keynote speaker Dr Simon Costanzo from Darwinian Consulting to open the proceedings and set the scene about the importance of collaboration in such a complex setting."

"Dr Costanzo is an expert in environmental science who has worked with international, national and Queensland waterway groups to build better waterway health outcomes."

"The three panel sessions include: 'Incorporating cultural values in water management' with First Nations representatives from around the Fitzroy; 'Balancing environmental values and economic responsibility from a water quality perspective in the Fitzroy Basin' and 'What next for water management in the Fitzroy: Looking to 2032' with senior agriculture, resources, government and research representatives," Ms Steele said.

"We released a Report Card on the health of waterways in the Fitzroy Basin recently which continued the trend of a consistent good to fair grade for the past eleven years for the Fitzroy,"

"The community should take heart that independently assessed data shows that while the Fitzroy is a working Basin incorporating strong resources, industry, agriculture and urban presence, ecosystem health has largely been maintained throughout the Basin over the past eleven years."

"However, as a collective, we do not want to be complacent and by staging this Round Table and bringing these key experts together we believe we are playing a significant role in driving a better water future for the Fitzroy Basin, for our industries, our economies and our communities."

“The ongoing support of our partner organisations is integral but we are strong in our belief that our collective has also provided a unique platform for government and industry partners to come together with some real and lasting outcomes.”

“We thank our partners for their ongoing support and look forward to another 10 years working together to create a better water future for the Fitzroy Basin,” Ms Steele said.

Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon congratulated members on a decade of work to act and protect local waterways.

“From government and agriculture to industry and the community – this partnership has helped to drive a better understanding of our waterways and actions to make sure we can protect it,” Minister Scanlon said.

For more information on the work of Fitzroy Partnership for River Health and to drill down to the detail of waterway health in the Fitzroy Basin visit www.riverhealth.org.au

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