



Media release

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FBA supports independent water testing

Central Queensland's leading natural resource management group, the Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. (FBA) has supported the call by local Councilor Bill Ludwig to establish independent sampling and analysis of water in the Fitzroy catchment.

FBA Operations Manager Claire Rodgers said an independent testing regime would improve community confidence, and long-term integrated monitoring was needed to fully address concerns about the health of local waterways.

"FBA supports calls for independent testing and will continue to work toward development and implementation of an integrated water quality monitoring program," Mrs Rodgers said.

"We have worked hard over the past five years to build a partnership between all stakeholders interested in water quality with the aim of developing and implementing an integrated monitoring plan for the Basin," she said.

"So far, these efforts have not borne fruit. But it is clear from the outrage and mistrust present in the community that we cannot afford to wait much longer to act on this issue."

Mrs Rodgers said that for several years FBA had been testing and analysing water samples from across the basin for levels of sediments and nutrients.

"During the past six months however, FBA has twice sampled water from a range of strategic sites around the catchment and had these samples analysed for contaminants ranging from metals to organic compounds," she said.

Mrs Rodgers said analysis results were available at www.fba.org.au. All samples were analysed by independent accredited laboratories.

"Samples were taken from all major tributaries of the Fitzroy in an effort to broaden the perspective of the technical working group which is primarily concerned with the quality of water downstream of the Ensham mine," she said.

"The focus of FBA's program has been to establish the quality of water across the entire catchment and to determine if and at what level, catchment water quality has been deteriorated by mining development.

"We need to take a broader and more forward-focused look at the best ways to manage our water resources."

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