



Media release

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Healthy Waterways Focus for FBA

Protecting waterways for a better environment and ensuring healthy water for use by residents, agriculture and industry is an essential goal for Fitzroy Basin Association Incorporated (FBA).

FBA Chief Executive Officer Suzie Christensen said the local natural resource management group had intensified its focus on waterway health through:

- A new project to establish a **healthy waterways monitoring and reporting partnership** for the Fitzroy Basin;
- The recent release of a **Fitzroy Basin Water Quality Improvement Report**;
- Membership of the State Government's **Fitzroy water quality advisory group**; and
- The creation of a **new Healthy Waterways Manager position** to support partnership development across the Fitzroy.

"The Fitzroy Basin Water Quality Improvement Report released by FBA presents current best available data and knowledge, and proposes targets and ideas for implementation," Ms Christensen said.

"It was developed by FBA under the Australian Government's Coastal Catchments Initiative, with contributions from the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management, CSIRO and others."

Ms Christensen said that FBA had received \$500,000 from the Queensland Government to help identify environmental values and establish a healthy waterways monitoring and reporting partnership for the Fitzroy Basin, building upon the current report.

"FBA has an enviable record in coordinating monitoring and we have the networks and community base needed to establish a truly effective basin-wide monitoring program," Ms Christensen said.

"For years FBA has been working with local landholders to monitor water quality on properties and gain a better understanding of agricultural impacts on waterways," she said.

"We now aim to develop a monitoring partnership that includes all stakeholders such as local and state government and the mining and industrial sector.

"This new partnership based approach to deliver a more comprehensive monitoring and reporting program will ensure that we have a strong scientific foundation for accurately assessing local waterway health.

"We can't expect to understand how waterway health is improving or declining and how to address issues without this base level knowledge."

Ms Christensen said that FBA had a leadership role to play in helping the local community improve waterway health.

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“FBA coordinates the implementation of the region’s natural resource management plan, the Central Queensland Strategy for Sustainability 2004 and Beyond, which was developed in consultation with all levels of the community” she said.

“We have recently appointed Nathan Johnston to the newly created role of Healthy Waterways Manager to support partnership development and influence planning and policy-setting to ensure the community’s aspirations for waterway health across the Fitzroy Basin are achieved.”

Ms Christensen said FBA also employed a water quality coordinator, and field staff engaged in working with local land managers to improve waterway health outcomes.

Copies of the Water Quality Improvement report are available from FBA by phoning 49992800 or online at www.fba.org.au.

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