

Media Release: FITZROY BASIN ASSOCIATION

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FBA highlights NRM to key decision-makers

After witnessing the toll of flooding on the people and infrastructure of Rockhampton on the weekend, Prime Minister Julia Gillard also learnt more about flood's environmental impact.

Ms Gillard met with representatives of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and the region's peak natural resource management group Fitzroy Basin Association Incorporated (FBA).

FBA operations manager Claire Rodgers raised a proposal with Ms Gillard to assist rehabilitation of the flood-ravaged landscape.

"Now is the time to help graziers and farmers to get back on their feet in a way that will minimise long-term impacts of this flood and better prepare our region for future floods," she said.

"This could include providing grants and information to help landholders re-align fences, construct contour banks, flood-proof chemical storage areas, control weeds, and re-seed pastures to establish new ground cover quickly to reduce further loss of topsoil.

"We also appreciate the need to work closely with the region's mines to ensure they can manage water discharges and other recovery activities in a sustainable way, to return to operational capacity as soon as possible."

In addition to providing information to the Prime Minister, FBA will contribute to the Queensland Premier's flood recovery taskforce headed by Major General Mick Slater.

FBA's CEO Suzie Christensen will represent the Queensland Regional NRM Groups Collective on the Environment committee of the taskforce, bringing more than 10 years experience working in natural resource management to the discussions.

Ms Christensen said restoring landscapes and waterways degraded by flooding was an important factor to consider during the recovery phase.

"I will be urging the taskforce to consider recovery actions that support long-term positive environmental outcomes – this can be achieved through improved management of our natural assets to reduce the negative impacts of future flooding events," she said.

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