



# INFO SHEET

## Living in the Fitzroy Basin

The Fitzroy Basin is a large catchment. It is around 150,000 square kilometers – that's almost twice the size of Tasmania.

The Fitzroy Basin includes a large network of rivers and streams: more than 20,000km of waterways.

### What is a river basin?

Everyone lives in a river basin, even if you live in a desert! This is because everyone lives on land that drains to a waterway.

A river basin is an area of land that is drained by waterways that eventually flow into just one main river that then flows into an estuary or the ocean. In our basin, this is the Fitzroy River. That is why it is known as the Fitzroy Basin.



*The Fitzroy River*

### What is a catchment?

Sometimes a basin is called a catchment. This is because the land included in the basin 'catches' water that hits the ground and directs it into a central river. There may be a number of smaller sub-catchments within a river basin.

### What is a tributary?

A tributary is a small waterway that flows into a larger waterway. The rivers, creeks and streams that flow into the main river of a basin are called tributaries. Some of the tributaries in our basin are the Dawson, Isaac, Mackenzie, Connors, Comet, and Nogoia rivers.



*Funnel Creek: a tributary of the Connors Rivers*

### Looking after our waterways

Because the waterways that flow through our basin all eventually flow into the Fitzroy River and out to sea, the actions of everyone who lives in the basin affects water downstream.

Pollution, rubbish, chemicals and dirt that enter the water in one part of our basin will affect other waterways within the basin and eventually reach the ocean.

This means we all need to take responsibility for keeping waterways clean and healthy. Because all plants, animals and human rely on water to survive.