

## Rural Water Roundtable

23 May 2022

### COMMUNIQUE

Members of the Rural Water Roundtable met on 23 May 2022 as part of their ongoing discussions to guide the implementation of Tasmania's Rural Water Use Strategy. The focus of the meeting was discussion of the role of the Rural Water Roundtable now that the Rural Water Use Strategy Implementation Plan and Report Card 2022 have been released; along with providing an update on the River Health Advisory Project and establishment of the Water Managers and Data Custodian Working Group.

#### **Ongoing role of the Rural Water Roundtable**

Discussions reaffirmed the valuable role of the Rural Water Roundtable. An updated Terms of Reference was discussed with the key roles of the Roundtable identified as:

- Monitoring implementation of the Rural Water Use Strategy and providing advice on strategic directions as implementation evolves.
- Coordination of multi-party implementation activities that support the goals of the Strategy.
- Improved communication, coordination and alignment of industry activities and responsibilities for the sustainable management of Tasmania's water resources and industry working to compliment the goals and actions of the Rural Water Use Strategy and the River Health Advisory Project.
- Providing a forum to enhance two-way communication and developing relationships for the benefit of managing Tasmania's water resources.
- Providing information and input to community and stakeholder engagement approaches and communications activities.
- Providing an opportunity to support and advise on broader stakeholder engagement.

#### **Establishment of the Water Managers and Data Custodian Working Group**

The Roundtable discussed draft Terms of Reference for a new Water Managers and Data Custodian Working Group. The Working Group will be made up of scientists and data experts from the main water management entities in Tasmania.

The Working Group will undertake activities to support delivery of actions of the Rural Water Use Strategy and River Health Advisory Project including Actions 1.5 and the New Action 1.8.

A priority for the group will be to investigate options for improved coordination and data sharing of river health and water quality data between water entities and to develop options for a new collaborative state-wide water quality monitoring program.

While the group will initially be made up of members from the main water management entities, the Working Group will engage broadly with other groups and organisations that collect and hold relevant water data.

The Working Group will report regularly to the Rural Water Roundtable.