

Rural Water Roundtable

15 May 2023

COMMUNIQUE

Members of the Rural Water Roundtable met on 15 May 2023 as part of their ongoing role to guide the implementation of Tasmania's Rural Water Use Strategy. The focus of the meeting was to introduce members work being undertaken by the National Committee of Aboriginal Water Interests (CAWI) to progress initiatives and engagement with Aboriginal people on the management of freshwater resources. Members were also given a presentation on the new Groundwater Risk Assessment Tool, and were provided with an update on the renewal of the National Water Initiative.

Aboriginal Water Interests

The Roundtable was informed that greater inclusion of Aboriginal freshwater interests for cultural and economic purposes is a being progressed under the renewal of the National Water Initiative. CAWI has been established to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's interests in water in the renewal of the NWI. Mr Rene Woods, co-chair of CAWI, attended the meeting online and addressed members on the role of CAWI and shared some of the important work that CAWI is undertaking at the National level and learnings that can support the progression of Aboriginal freshwater interests in Tasmania. Members were also updated on what NRE Tas has learned from the Tasmanian Aboriginal community on what is important to them with respect to freshwater at the state level.

Update on implementation of Rural Water Use Strategy

Members were provided with an update on a range of projects that are underway. These include the Catchment Yield Science Update Project, Water Accountability, Metering and Reporting Framework Project, Hydrological Monitoring Network Review Project, Water Information Management System (WIMS) Upgrade Business Case, River Health Advisory Project, and the new State-wide Water Quality Monitoring Program. Many of the projects are in the final stages of preparing scientific or technical reports which will be released with the annual report card later this year.