

Rural Water Roundtable

20 December 2021

COMMUNIQUE

Members of the Rural Water Roundtable met on 15 October and 10 December 2021 as part of their ongoing discussions to guide the implementation of Tasmania's Rural Water Use Strategy. The focus of the meetings was on building awareness and common understanding of river health and water quality issues and perspectives.

The Roundtable provides an opportunity to explore greater collaboration, coordination and alignment of government, industry and environmental natural resource management values to improve the sustainable management of Tasmania's water resources and waterways.

Members of the Roundtable heard presentations from a number of guest speakers including Christine Coughanowr from the Tasmanian Independent Science Council, Gary France from Anglers Alliance Tasmania, river health experts from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, and NRM North Tamar and Esk Rivers program.

River Health

Members of the Rural Water Roundtable discussed how new collaboration and partnerships are required to achieve better outcomes for river health and water quality in Tasmania. Members discussed what they thought will be key considerations for the Department's River Health Advisory Project including the importance of identifying community and stakeholder values for waterways and establish priority actions to maintain or improve waterway health. Members also emphasised that improving our knowledge and scientific understanding of river health drivers is key to ensuring that actions can be targeted and effective.

Members discussed the need to look both at collaborative and partnership models to work together on river health, as well as suggesting that regulatory settings should also be reviewed to ensure that community and environmental needs and expectations are met.

The discussion will inform the Department's ongoing development of the River Health Advisory Project.