



Making Water Work in the Rockhampton region

Project reference : A.7.2122009 Integrating nutrient, waste and energy streams in agriculture development through hyacinth harvest and processing

Applications close 5pm AEST Friday 2 September 2022

Background

With major economic and social challenges and opportunities shaping the future of Queensland's regional communities, the Rockhampton Regional Council (RRC), the Queensland Government (DAF and DES) and the Collaborative Research Centre for Northern Australia (CRCNA) have been working together to maximise the future sustainable development opportunities emerging from available water resources in the Lower Fitzroy Basin. Early stages of this work culminated in the development of a broad **Making Water Work Business Case** (see Appendix 1). This business case represents the Rockhampton region's wider integrated approach to maximising the economic, social, environmental and cultural value from the new Rookwood Weir development and other available sources of water.

Key stakeholders with an interest in this Business Case have formalised collaborative governance arrangements through the *Making Water Work Governance Group* that oversees this work, chaired by Advance Rockhampton in partnership with the CRCNA Chief Scientist and DAF. Justification for shared investment between CRCNA, DAF and RRC in progressing this business case includes:

- The need to deliver high value water security in the region
- The opportunity to unlock significant unmet agriculture export and domestic demands;
- The potential to explore many new jobs from new agricultural development, food manufacturing and export of agricultural products and materials
- The existence of important agricultural and pastoral development opportunities in the Rockhampton Regional Council area and the Lower Fitzroy
- A growing policy and consumer pressure for a more circular and value rich agricultural economy, particularly in the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

Five key scoping jobs have been identified and resourced to help progress this broader **Making Water Work Business Case** within the Rockhampton Regional Council area within the context of the Lower Fitzroy basin. These include:

1. Defining a supply chain and development precincts vision
2. Visionary land use planning to facilitate development precincts
3. Mobilising strong water governance arrangements
4. **Integrating nutrient, waste and energy streams in agricultural development through hyacinth harvest and processing**
5. Achieving reef water quality requirements in new agricultural development.



This EOI applies to the fourth of these Scoping Projects, but it is intended that all five Projects are released and delivered in an integrated way.

The job

In this Scoping Project, the proponent is required to undertake the following activities:

Integrating nutrient, energy and waste streams in agricultural development through hyacinth harvest and processing		
1	Hyacinth / Waste repurpose concept	Explore and conceptualise the strategic opportunity for hyacinth removal, processing and reuse as a key pillar of building a circular economy within the Rockhampton Regional Council area and wider Lower Fitzroy Basin.
2	Hyacinth / Waste repurpose pilot design	Design a hyacinth/carbon repurpose pilot that targets hyacinth in the Fitzroy River and appropriate carbon sources from other waste streams in the Rockhampton region. The design should explore recycling which can be repurposed into compost to improve agricultural soils and reduce nutrient loss in the Lower Fitzroy region.
3	Hyacinth / Waste Carbon repurpose pilot trial	Trial a hyacinth/Carbon repurpose pilot in the Lower Fitzroy region based on the design concept. As part of the pilot, particular attention needs to be paid to progressing carbon credits (Dept of Industry, Science and Resources) and if appropriate, a reef credit methodology.

Expectation of proponent and selection criteria

CRCNA, DAF and the Rockhampton Regional Council have the following expectations of respondents to or proponents of this EOI:

- The EOI needs to demonstrate that the lead proponent has strong partnerships in place to deliver on the required activities
- The timeframe for this project is expected to be completed within 2 years
- While matching investment is not essential, additional cash and in-kind contributions by proponents and their partners will be viewed favourably
- A strong track record across the skills required to achieve the objectives of the EOI.

Core selection criteria for the assessment of this EOI will include:

- Capacity to deliver on the core scope of the job outlined above
- The scope and depth of proposed matching co-investment
- Clear demonstration of the partnership capacities required to partner with key relevant stakeholders in the Rockhampton and Lower Fitzroy region



- A clearly outlined pathway to impact arising from this scoping phase work.

Timelines and Process

This is an open EOI process, but proponents are expected to communicate with the CRCNA before progressing towards submission (see contacts below). Proponents should note:

- **Applications close 5pm AEST Friday 2 September 2022**
- Responses should be provided by filling in the required brief EOI form for this subproject available [here](#).
- The EOI Selection Panel will involve CRCNA, DAF and RRC
- Successful proponents will be required to complete a full CRCNA project form for this subproject before progressing to contract.

Key Contacts for Information Relating to this EOI

Strategic EOI Advice	Administrative advice
Allan Dale (CRCNA Chief Scientist)	Carla Keith (CRCNA General Manager)
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