



Making Water Work in the Rockhampton region

Project reference : A.7.2122008 Mobilising strong water governance arrangements

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
5. Achieving reef water quality requirements in new agricultural development



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

The job

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

Mobilising strong water governance arrangements		
1.	Scoping the key local governance challenges ahead for progressing water-based development	Scope and explore emerging governance challenges as future water development opportunities progress locally in the Rockhampton region. This should particularly include: (i) growing emerging local irrigator associations; (ii) strengthening the relationship between the bulk water provider and water users (including water product development and local area management approaches); (iii) the establishment of water trading arrangements to ensure water 'flows to the highest and best use in agriculture; and (iv) the resolution of emerging water distribution challenges. This exploration should identify the core roles of each player in different parts of the governance system.
2.	Explore and assess analogous models	Explore and assess analogous governance models that have worked to achieve effective water governance across each of these issues, and through local engagement, scope industry, community and service provider responses to the most appropriate models.
3.	Governance arrangements	Establish a work plan and timetable to support the local negotiation of the most appropriate governance arrangements, core responsibility and sequencing of their establishment and ownership.

Expectation of proponent and selection criteria

To be considered eligible, any responses to this EOI must:

- Demonstrate that the lead proponent has strong partnerships in place to deliver on the required activities
- Demonstrate how they will deliver this proposed project within 12 months
- While matching investment is not essential, additional cash and in-kind contributions by proponents and their partners will be viewed favourably
- Proven 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
- 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.
- That 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)
0418 736 422	0499 330 051
allan.dale@jcu.edu.au	generalmanager@crcna.com.au