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## **Fitzroy Basin Water Resource Plan - Media Release**

19 June 2009

### **Free Public Forum on the Fitzroy Basin Water Resource Plan**

**When: 6.00 – 9.00 pm Wednesday 1st July**

**Where: Walter Reid Auditorium Derby Street Rockhampton**

Environment and community groups are hosting a free public forum on the Fitzroy Basin Water Resource Plan, which is currently undergoing its statutory 10 year review.

As part of the process, the performance of the old plan will be closely examined. By taking into account current data, improved scientific knowledge and new issues, the new plan will establish a framework to sustainably manage water for consumptive and environmental purposes over the next ten years.

The renewal of the plan is a once in a decade opportunity for the community and stakeholders to have their say on the management of the Fitzroy Basin's water resources.

At the forum, community and environment groups will be presenting their views on how the new plan must manage water for the Fitzroy River to stay healthy.

#### **Confirmed speakers are:**

**Nigel Parratt** – from the **Queensland Conservation Council** will be speaking about the history of water reform, how well the existing plan has performed and what the new plan must do to improve environmental outcomes.

**Claire Rodgers** – from the **Fitzroy Basin Association** will be speaking on what the new plan must do to tackle water quality issues and improve natural resource management outcomes.

**Ian Herbert** – from **Capricorn Conservation Council** will be speaking on the Fitzroy River's unique ecosystems.

**Pam Malyszek** – from **Greening Australia** will be speaking about the endangered Fitzroy River turtle.

**Cameron Wearing** – from **Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments** will be speaking about what the new plan must do to keep the Fitzroy River healthy.

Also speaking will be representatives from the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM), who will present data and findings about the recent impacts to water quality in the Fitzroy River from the release of contaminated coalmine floodwater.

**Other potential speakers are:**

The Fitzroy Basin Elders Committee, speaking about indigenous cultural values.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, speaking about what the new plan needs to do to protect World Heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef.

Following the speakers will be a general discussion, which is an opportunity for members of the public to share their views and participate in a ‘community conversation’ about the new plan.

The forum will conclude with a networking session over tea, coffee and biscuits.

RSVP for catering purposes, please phone 3221 0188

Ends

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