

Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

1. The Purpose of the Committee

Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee (RCWAC) is established under section 23 of Water Act to advise the Minister and the Controller of Water Resources on water quality and water resource management issues affecting Rapid Creek and its catchment.

2. Statutory Effect

Section 23 of the *Water Act* authorises the Minister to establish, and appoint the members of, a Water Advisory Committee.

3. Terms of Reference

The Committee will:

- Identify, discuss and make recommendations to the Controller of Water Resources on matters regarding the management and protection of Rapid Creek and its catchment
- Provide a forum to share information with stakeholders and the community and seek their values and interests ensuring these are communicated back to the Controller of Water Resources.
- To advise the Minister on development issues and policy matters that may influence the use, development and management of Rapid Creek and its catchment.
- To implement a Rapid Creek water management plan and annual assessment against the plan to the Controller of Water Resources and the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources.
- Consider any other matters referred to it by the Minister or Controller of Water Resources.

4. Composition of the Committee

Members of the committee and chairperson will be appointed by the Minister from nominations received during an Expressions of Interest process. In addition to the chairperson, the committee will have a minimum of eight members appointed by the Minister.

Members will be selected with reference to their interest in water resource management and protection. Members must possess the ability to work with a diverse group of people with a range of values, interests, backgrounds and expertise. The members selected by the Minister will ensure that a diversity of representation is achieved.

The Minister may also appoint an ex-officio member to the committee from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, to ensure high level expertise is available when required.

Members of the Legislative Assembly may attend the committee as observers.

5. Chairing functions

A Chair will be determined and appointed by the Minister based on the expressions of interest received.

In the event that the chairperson is not able to attend a meeting they shall nominate an alternate chairperson, or if this is not possible, the committee shall elect a chairperson from those present.

6. Terms of Appointment

Members are appointed to the Committee by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources under Section 23 of the Act.

7. Operating arrangements

- Members shall declare conflicts of interest and inform the chairperson immediately if a matter comes before the committee that may have a personal financial or other substantial personal interest.
- Meetings will be held as often as necessary to conduct the business of the committee. It is envisaged meetings will be held every 8 weeks, most likely in the evening on a business day.
- Members may nominate to the chairperson an alternate to attend meetings in their place if they are unable to attend a part or the whole meeting. The alternate has the same participating and voting rights as the member for the duration of the meeting.
- Confidentiality will be maintained by all participants at all times.
- A quorum in respect of the committee shall comprise half the membership including alternates.
- There is no obligation on the committee to reach consensus in its recommendations. The role of the committee is the identification of issues, critically evaluate information and to offer suggestions for innovative water management strategies that support the declared beneficial uses.
- Sitting fees as per the remuneration for statutory bodies schedule payable to non-government appointees will apply.
- The Water Resources Division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will provide an Executive Officer to provide secretariat support to the committee.