

## Community Engagement Plan

### **Speaking notes to go with presentation.**

There's a lot of work to do.

We can visualise what we want it to look like. We can see the native vegetation, the clean water, the birds, and the butterflies returning. The Bungala River, the pride and centrepiece of Yankalilla and Normanville.

But we can't do this alone.

Friends of Bungala River will be about partnerships.

We will need partnerships to progress; landowners, our friends, our neighbours, state and local government, the landscape board, community groups like the Residents Association, the Environment Centre, the historical society and of course, our First nations' Elders.

We need these groups, their knowledge, their expertise, their resources and of course their passion for a healthy river.

The blue umbrella seen in the diagram shows the Friends of Bungala River Management committee, an umbrella organisation that will sit between the people on the ground that are actually doing the land care and the authorities, community groups and subject matter experts that will provide resources and knowledge as and when required.

We see this organisation as an incorporated body with a public officer, Chair and deputy chair, secretary, and treasurer plus at least 5 or 6 other people that are well versed in Landcare and ecosystems recovery.

This group will provide, via our River Guardians or onsite project managers, the guidance and support to the hyper local Landcare groups that will hopefully form up and down the river, particularly the parts of the river that run through Normanville and Yankalilla.

So, in a bit more detail, these are the sort of tasks that we could see being part of the new committees' roles:

- Identify new potential river projects.
- Allocate River Guardians to new sites.
- Support River Guardians (project managers) to provide on site support.
- Assist with grant applications.
- Help to prepare project site plans.
- Provide access to shared resources.
- Facilitate training and workshops when required.
- Build community through regular social functions.
- Report back to the community groups that feed the Friends of Bungala organisation.

So what do the River Guardians do ?

We see the role of a River Guardian a bit like a project manager. This person should ideally have good local river and Landcare knowledge and be happy to support a team of newbies if required.

- Help the on-site team to get set up with third party insurance and equipment.
- Help the on-site team to develop a site plan.
- Help to organise working bees, plants and equipment when needed.
- Organise training when necessary.
- Provide a First Aider if required.
- Help the on-site team stay on track and to meet their goals.
- Update the Management Committee with site progress reports.

How active these roles are will depend on how active and energetic the Friends are, but I think we can all agree that to begin with, this will be a learning and hopefully enriching journey for all involved. It's really important that we keep the joy and the passion for what we are doing, so building social capacity as a Bungala Friends of Group will be central to the long-term success.

Inter Friends of Bungala group BBQs and get together to share knowledge, stories, and wisdom.

The MOST important people in this whole idea will be the community. Your passion and your vision for a healthy river and environment and your willingness to learn and contribute your time to this little piece of paradise we call home.

So, if you want to be involved where do you begin.

- Find a part of the river you are passionate about.
- Have a vision for how you want to see it restored.
- Get approval from the landowner to start a land care group.
- And most importantly Contact the Friends of Bungala River Management Committee to organise a site visit and help you get started.

A goal that we have is that every small Landcare project that is part of Friends of Bungala will be awarded a plaque to display at the location. Become a member of the Friends of Bungala River community and show your support and contribution proudly.

Thank you

