



Aboriginal Water and Environmental Advisory Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Definitions

For the purposes of these Terms of Reference:

‘Co-Chairs’ means the Director General and the elected member as Co-Chairs.

“Department” means the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

“AWEAG” means the Aboriginal Water and Environmental Advisory Group.

“Member” means a member of the AWEAG.

2. Purpose

The Advisory Group has been established by the Director General to provide strategic advice relating to the development and implementation of policies, programs and strategies for the management and regulation of the State’s environment and water resources impacting Aboriginal people, and communities in Western Australia (WA).

The Advisory Group provides an opportunity to create genuine and meaningful engagement building respectful relationships for collaboration to recognise and embed traditional knowledge, and cultural practices to protect and manage Western Australia’s environment and water resources.

Members will provide a cultural lens, be champions and supporters of the Department’s reconciliation journey and align their advice to key Commonwealth and State policies to achieve improved economic, social and cultural outcomes for Aboriginal people living in WA.

3. Memberships

The Advisory Group will be comprised of up to 14 Aboriginal members. An expression of interest process will be called to fill vacancies. A selection panel including Aboriginal people will consider applications and present recommendations to the Co-Chairs.

The Co-Chairs will, as far as practicable appoint members to AWEAG who provide for representation from bioregions across the State and optimise regional, gender balance and all other forms of diversity, and lived experience and subject matter expertise, relevant to the role and purpose of the Advisory Group.

4. Appointment of Co-Chair

The Advisory Group is Co-Chaired by the Director General of the Department, and an Aboriginal Co-Chair nominated by the Advisory Group members. As far as practicable, the Co-Chairs should reflect a gender balance. The election of Co-Chairs will be by a majority of members in attendance.

5. Meetings and Procedures

The Advisory Group will meet at least four times per year, with one meeting being held in the WA region. A quorum comprises of one Co-Chair and five members. The procedures are set out in the Advisory Group's Charter at Appendix 1.

6. Remuneration

Members of the Advisory Group may be eligible for remuneration and other allowances, as determined by the Director General and according to the terms set out in the Department's Community Paid Participation Policy in Engagement Activities policy.

7. Declaration of Interest

Members are required to declare any conflict of interest in any items raised to the Advisory Group. All declarations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

8. Record of Meeting

A record of the meetings will be kept and endorsed as correct by the Co-Chairs.

9. Confidentiality and communication

Each member shall abide by the terms of the Advisory Group's Code of Conduct relating to confidentiality and communication.

10. Review

The Terms of Reference and performance of the AWEAG will be reviewed in line with the corporate timelines and amended when necessary.

Endorsement Date: 21 February 2025

Review Date: 21 February 2027