



Annual Report

2015 - 2016



Australian Government



Queensland Government



View our 2015-16
achievements in our new video
 www.fba.org.au

FBA strives to protect natural assets

like habitats and ecosystems, wetlands, plants and animals; improve land condition and land management practices; and ensure that we have healthy waterways flowing to the Great Barrier Reef.

Fitzroy Basin Association Incorporated (FBA) is one of 14 Natural Resource Management (NRM) regional bodies in Queensland and 56 Australia wide that help communities manage natural resources more wisely. NRM is about finding the balance between protecting the environment and land use needs of the community, agriculture and industry.

Our vision

Inspired and empowered communities who value our natural assets.

Our mission

To empower our region with the resources, knowledge and skills to maintain our natural assets for future generations.

Our values



Accountability



Innovation



Teamwork



Passion



Integrity



Empowerment



FBA's first video annual report produced



Visit www.fba.org.au to watch.

\$21 Million

invested in the region to manage natural resources and improve local water quality flowing to the Great Barrier Reef

\$4.1 Million

invested by land managers in on-ground projects – represents the value of labour and project management

192 Projects

contracted to reduce erosion and improve water quality



WQIP:2015

Developed Fitzroy Water Quality Improvement Plan 2015 (WQIP:2015) to clearly define priorities for region

 www.fba.org.au/wqip

19,000

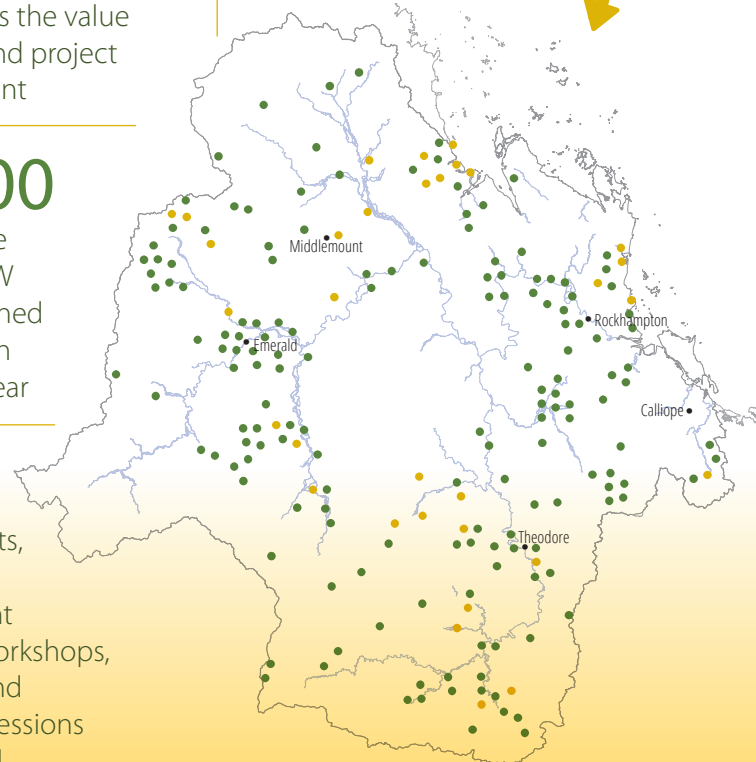
people have visited FLOW since it opened in 2012, with 4,737 this year

Over 1,500

land managers attended best management practice workshops or received specialised training in erosion repair, mapping, business management, water efficiency and soil health

239

public events, community engagement activities, workshops, field days and education sessions coordinated



● Reef Programme

● Qld Regional NRM Investment

2015-16 has again seen great achievements

Thanks to the hard work of staff, partner organisations and the wider community, FBA's programs have continued to deliver significant on-ground success stories.

In particular, the Grazing Best Management Practices (BMP) program is exceeding all expectations with a record number of graziers involved. The accelerated workshops, which allow graziers to fast-track the program over two intensive days, have been very well received. FBA's individual, tailored support has also helped graziers prepare for the next step: Grazing BMP Accreditation. In addition, Grains BMP is achieving excellent results, with the Queensland Government hopefully committing funds to the program until 2019.

This year FBA released the Fitzroy Basin's Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP:2015). The WQIP:2015 has been published as a website, offering greater access to the scientific data and priority-setting process for the broader community and decision-makers. It clearly defines future priorities for our region and underpins new funding submissions, from which we are already reaping the rewards.

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Central Queensland Sustainability Strategy 2030

(CQSS:2030) and WQIP:2015 will be ongoing to ensure these plans are implemented and remain relevant to our region.

FBA has always encouraged innovation. SwarmFarm Robotics was one of the first investments approved by the Board through FBA's Innovations Fund. I was proud to attend the commercial launch of their robotic crop machinery in 2015.

As FBA's representative, I have worked with other Queensland natural resource management (NRM) groups to review the network across the state. This work will continue to examine efficiencies and consider consolidating corporate services to further improve program delivery.

This year's rural Board meeting was held in Middlemount allowing the community an opportunity to attend and discuss ideas with the Board. Additionally, I would like to welcome our two new Board members, Paul Walmsley - Regional Director, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Livingstone Shire Council Mayor Bill Ludwig.

Special mention and the Board's sincere thanks goes to outgoing members Kurt Heidecker and John Grimes for their significant contributions and

service to FBA. Kurt held various positions on the Board, most recently Deputy Chair, and John had been an observer on the Board since FBA's inception almost 20 years ago.

FBA's significant achievements would not be possible without the commitment of its staff, or funding from the Australian and Queensland governments. It is a credit to all the FBA staff members that they manage over 23 separately funded programs and achieve the remarkable results we are seeing all over the landscape. I'd like to thank you all for your hard work and support during 2015-2016 and look forward to you continuing to meet the challenges ahead.

Ian MacGibbon

CHAIR





FBA continually strives to innovate and improve

This year we have shared our many achievements in sustainable grazing and farming, biodiversity, ecosystem rehabilitation and community engagement via video. I encourage you to visit our website – www.fba.org.au and watch the short film.

Fostering strong partnerships is vital to FBA's ongoing success. FBA works closely with our delivery partners, all levels of government, land managers and the wider community to make a difference to our region's natural assets, something we take great pride in.

The Fitzroy Basin is the largest catchment draining into the Great Barrier Reef. Studies have shown that sediment from our catchment can travel up to 400 kilometres north before settling on reefs in the Whitsundays, so the work we do in our catchment has a big impact.

Twice this year FBA hosted Dr Geoff Garrett when he visited the region on behalf of the Reef Taskforce, and both sessions were well attended to inform the final report.

Erosion from gullies is one of the greatest risks to the Reef. FBA was among the first regions to secure funding to implement gully restoration projects. Three projects were showcased by

FBA during property tours, drawing over 130 attendees, with some travelling from as far as Cape York and Canberra to attend.

FBA is a member of the Reef Alliance and through this partnership, we have gained funding for Reef Trust 3 through the Australian Government. In the coming year, we will also deliver a range of initiatives via funding from various programs through the Australian and Queensland governments.

Increasing community understanding and participation in natural resource management (NRM) is important. FBA supports events and engagement efforts to inspire hearts and minds and nurture a deeper connection to our region's natural assets. FBA's interactive centre, FLOW, has welcomed over 19,000 visitors since 2012. FLOW offers tailored education sessions for all ages and continues to be a great resource for our community.


FBA also continues to host and is a major partner of the Fitzroy Partnership for River Health and Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership, working with industry, government and community to report on the health of our waterways and the Reef.

Continuous improvement underpins our work. Every three to five years, FBA participates in a national performance excellence review, which assesses our efficiencies and compares our operations to other NRM groups across the country. The results were pleasing, reflecting the ongoing dedication our staff have to delivering FBA's vision. I would like to thank my team for their hard work during the past 12 months, the Board for their continuing support and I look forward to another successful year in 16/17.


Paul Birch
CEO



»» 2015-16 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS


373 km 
of streams and creeks and
2,700 ha of wetlands protected


17.1 
hectares of degraded coastal
dune environment restored

41 
grains, cotton and horticulture
projects completed to
modify machinery or improve
water efficiency



Over 1 Million
hectares under coordinated feral
pig and wild dog control by over
100 land managers

130 
people attended
gully repair field days
to learn effective
mitigation strategies

176 
watering points installed
to reduce cattle access
to waterways

505 
community members
participated in activities
encouraging sustainable
agriculture, supported by the
Regional Landcare Facilitator

61 growers
completed
Grains BMP or
undertook reassessments 



2,534
hectares of land on properties
surrounding Taunton National
Park now designated as wildlife
corridors for the Bridled
Nailtail Wallaby

169 
grazing businesses completed
Grazing BMP in the Fitzroy
Basin bringing the total for the
program state-wide to 334
www.bmpgrazing.com.au 

1.41 tonnes
of marine debris
collected, analysed
and removed
across 56 ha of
coastline at Shoal Water Bay by
Darumbal Youth 

2,200 
vine thicket saplings planted for
the 20 Million Trees Mt Etna project

Over 1,000
kilometres of upstream habitat
made available for native fish
through the installation of three
fish ladders 

Statement of Financial Position For year ended 30 June 2016

Current Assets	2016	2015
Cash on hand	\$9,626,167	\$9,598,154
Accounts receivable and other debtors	\$67,973	\$1,893,376
Total Current Assets	\$9,694,140	\$11,491,530
Non-current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	\$231,376	\$188,894
Total Non-current Assets	\$231,376	\$188,894
Total Assets	\$9,925,516	\$11,680,424
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and other payables	\$6,626,756	\$8,589,683
Provisions	\$439,675	\$508,268
Total Current Liabilities	\$7,066,431	\$9,097,951
Non-current Liabilities		
Provisions	\$137,837	\$107,355
Total Non-current Liabilities	\$137,837	\$107,355
Total Liabilities	\$7,204,268	\$9,205,306
Net Assets	\$2,721,248	\$2,475,118
Equity		
Retained surplus	\$2,721,248	\$2,475,118
Total Equity	\$2,721,248	\$2,475,118

Statement of Comprehensive Income For year ended 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
Revenue	\$16,958,451	\$14,092,739
Employee expenses	\$2,975,184	\$3,069,815
Depreciation expenses	\$67,438	\$94,402
Project expenses	\$13,243,633	\$10,543,704
Sundry expenses	\$426,065	\$383,973
Net current year surplus	\$246,131	\$845

This is an abridged version. A full copy of the Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2016 is available by contacting:
(07) 4999 2800 | admin@fba.org.au



We are proud of our team's work in 2015-16. View the video here
www.fba.org.au

Want to know more?



FBA is proud of our 2015-16 achievements, view them here



www.fba.org.au



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Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. thanks our partners for helping us
achieve successful results in 2015-16