

Terms of Reference and Guidelines for the Management and Operation of GREAT

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1. Formation of GREAT

The Gympie Region Environmental Advocacy Team (GREAT) was formed in 2021.

It is a collaborative unincorporated association of environmental organizations operating within the Gympie Regional Council area. GREAT's primary role is to provide opportunities for connection and collaboration between the diverse range of environmental groups in the region, to promote a cohesive approach to the protection and regeneration of the regional environment, and to maximize the impact of the advocacy of its members with local, State and Federal agencies.

The members of the GREAT at the date of this document are set out in the Schedule.

2. Objects

The objects of GREAT are to identify and resolve issues and challenges relating to, and to promote, the conservation, restoration and economically and socially sustainable management of land in the Gympie Region, including to:

- a) provide representation for the identification and resolution of issues and challenges relating to the conservation, restoration, and economically and socially sustainable management of land, including agricultural land, water, and vegetation;
- b) foster, support, and strengthen the knowledge, resources, and capabilities of the environmental movement in the region;
- c) consult with members, stakeholders and other organizations in the environment movement regarding issues and matters affecting their role in the management of natural resources;
- d) make representations to, and arrangements with, any government or authority to procure financial or other support, or develop policy, to benefit the management of natural resources consistent with the Company's objects and strategy from time to time;
- e) promote the achievements of members, stakeholders and the community relating to the success of programs or events undertaken by them; and
- g) do all such things as are incidental, convenient or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the above objects.

3. Membership

Membership is open to any incorporated or unincorporated association operating in the Gympie Regional Council area which has protection of the local environment as one of its main objectives. It is acknowledged that this is a broad definition and may take in a diverse range of groups, for example, groups interested in the preservation of a particular species of flora or fauna, in the eradication of particular pest species, in the regeneration of landscapes, marine clean-up, or reduction of waste.

A new group may be admitted to membership informally, either by application or invitation, and by a simple majority of the member groups current at the time of application or invitation.

Each member association may appoint a representative to act on its behalf in relation to its membership of GREAT.

4. Chair & Secretary

A Chair and a secretary will be appointed by the members of GREAT on an informal basis, and all members acknowledge that their respective organizations should be prepared to undertake this duty from time to time if so requested.

The positions of Chair and secretary shall be rotated on such basis as the members shall from time to time decide.

There is no minimum, or maximum term for either position.

5. Requirements of members

5.1 Members are expected to arrange a representative to commit sufficient time and effort to support the work of GREAT.

5.2 GREAT will rely substantially on member organizations to:

- 5.2.1 Provide the professional expertise and resources to support the consultative processes required to achieve broad representation;
- 5.2.2 Host meetings at their premises (where applicable) from time to time
- 5.2.3 Provide such resources as are required to permit the operation of the association

6. Term

GREAT will continue to operate until a majority of members decide that it is no longer required, or is otherwise unable to satisfactorily meet its objectives.

7. Operating Guidelines

Budget

7.1 No budget is currently allocated. Members are requested to provide necessary resources from their respective organizations.

Meetings

7.2 GREAT will convene at least twice each year, either in person or by telephone or electronic conferencing. At least one meeting each year should be held face to face.

7.2 Administration and management of GREAT will be coordinated by the Chair.

7.3 A quorum for a meeting will be 50 percent of the total number of members.

7.4 A member who is unable to attend a meeting may appoint an alternate to attend on their behalf. Alternatively, a member may give their proxy to any other member in respect of any matter. This should be advised to the Chair prior to the commencement of the meeting.

7.5 Any member may request the Chair to convene a meeting at any time, provided that 14 days' notice is provided to members after receipt of that request.

7.6 It is inevitable that there will be differences of views relating to the issues raised from time to time. Decisions are to be made by consensus, wherever possible. Where differences are irreconcilable, any representations made to third parties as a consequence of a decision made other than by consensus should specifically record the member organisations who approve the decision/submission being made.

Agenda

7.7 In developing its agenda GREAT members should be consulted, with a request for matters that they wish to raise for consideration. Any member may raise an issue for the agenda.

7.8 The Chair will work with the secretary to arrange meetings, approve and distribute the agenda, at least one week prior to meetings, approve minutes and ensure that they are distributed within one week of each meeting.

7.9 In considering the issues on their agenda, the members should rate the importance of each matter (for example, critical, moderate impact or low impact) and decide whether it requires broader consultation through GREAT member networks or should be handled by the group itself.

Work of the Group

7.10 The group should, on a regular basis, identify issues for research, consultation and consideration by canvassing the views of GREAT members, their constituents and stakeholders.

7.11 GREAT should decide the extent of consultation that is required to resolve each

issue, having regard to its level of importance. Matters of high or moderate impact will likely require extensive consultation with a broad range of GREAT members, constituents and stakeholders. It should also determine whether any research, investigation, or external advice is needed to provide evidence to be used in developing recommendations for the Board.

Schedule – Member organizations as of June 2023

Koala Action Gympie Region Inc	(KAGR)
Gympie and District Landcare Inc	(GDLG)
Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee Inc	(MRCCC)
Gympie Community Garden Group Inc	
ANARRA	
Cooloola Coastcare Association Inc	
CTCA Inc	
The Gympie & District Field Naturalists Club Inc	(FIELD NATS)
Wide Bay Burnett Environment Council Inc	WBBEC
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