

Friends of the Environment & Waterways Alliance: Guidelines

Introduction

The Central West Councils Environment & Waterways Alliance (Alliance) is an organisation representing the Councils of Central West NSW in order to share resources, attract grant funding, and build capacity in regards to managing the environment within our region, as well as delivering positive on-ground actions. The Alliance has a proud history dating back to 2000 when a group of Councils came together to combat the emerging threat of salinity across the region. As the focus of the group has changed over time to broad environmental and waterways outcomes, so has the name and operational region, with the current format having been in place since 2015.

At present, the Alliance represents 18 Member Councils across Central West NSW. Our operational structure includes an elected Chair, Deputy Chair and an appointed consultant working in the role of the Project Support Officer (PSO). Quarterly meetings guide our direction within the vision of our Alliance 5 Year Plan.

The Alliance website is a repository of information for our members and the broader public, with the publicly accessible site supported by a Members Area, which is used as a catalogue of operational documents, as well as other resources to assist the management of local government projects.

Mission Statement

To be an active partnership of Councils across the Central West of NSW, engaging all tiers of Government and our Communities, contributing to the protection and enhancement of the environmental, social, economic and cultural condition of our part of the world.

Friends of the Environment & Waterways Alliance

The Alliance does not operate in isolation. We greatly value partnerships and collaboration, and actively work to foster good working relationships with groups and agencies who share our values. While we already have extensive collaboration with a range of groups and agencies, we are currently looking to formalise these relationships.

Priorities and Goals

The Environment & Waterways Alliance has elected to focus on six Priorities that align with the Regional State of the Environment reporting in order to guide the direction of the group. Under each of these Priorities sits a Goal, or big picture statement of what the Alliance plans to do for each priority.



Land

Planning and management of land leads to appropriate land use to minimise impacts on the environment and enhance natural resources

Biodiversity

Improve quality and mitigate the impacts on the extent of habitat and ecological systems across the Alliance region

Water & Waterways

Healthy and resilient waterways dominated by native vegetation

People & Communities

Healthy and resilient waterways dominated by native vegetation

Towards Sustainability

Decisions made and actions taken that are in the interests of protecting our natural environment so that it maintains the capability to support current and future regional populations

Council Capacity

Access to capacity – both internal and shared – to deliver the Alliance Vision, Mission and Priorities

Benefits of being a Friend of the Alliance

The benefits of being a Friend of the Alliance will vary somewhat for each partner, however, may include the following aspects:

- Listing on the Environment & Waterways Alliance website as a Friend of the Alliance. This will include a link to your website as well as the logo of your organisation
- Promotion of your organisation through our social media channels, including a link to your relevant page
- Opportunity to present to an Alliance meeting to promote the work of your organisation
- Opportunity to share your relevant events, news and other opportunities through our website and social media channels
- Ability to share resources, knowledge and contacts for the benefit of both parties
- Invitation to Alliance meetings and events (note that only financial members of the Alliance have voting powers)

In return, it is expected that some or all of these conditions would be reciprocated for the Alliance.

Can my organisation become a Friend of the Alliance?

In the first instance, the Alliance will be targeting existing partners and organisations that we believe that we align closely with, or have an existing working relationship, excluding Local Government agencies who are eligible to be financial members of the Alliance. We will also be willing to accept proposals from other organisations wishing to partner with the Alliance. In order to submit a proposal for consideration, please submit a one-page proposal that outlines your organisations values and objectives, achievements and future direction. Additionally, you should



list how our support of your organisation can be reciprocated. All proposals will be put to a vote at the next scheduled Alliance meeting, with a majority vote required in order for your proposal to be accepted.

What is the term of the agreement?

Formalisation of a working relationship in the form of becoming a Friend of the Alliance is an ongoing agreement, with termination available at any time at the request of either party. Suitable reasons for terminating a Friends of the Alliance agreement include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The Friend of the Alliance upgrades to become a financial member of the Central West Councils Environment & Waterways Alliance (an organisation cannot be a financial member as well as a Friend)
- The direction or objectives of either party change and there is no longer alignment in the working direction of the two organisations

