

MEMBER WAMBO SHIRE RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines in conjunction with the Wambo Shire River Improvement Trust (the Trust) seeks applications from interested members of the community for the filling of the position of **Member of the Wambo Shire River Improvement Trust** for a term of up to 4 years commencing from 1 December 2016.

ROLE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE TRUST

The Trust is a statutory body charged with the responsibility for the protection and improvement of streams and mitigation of flooding within its proclaimed area “Wambo Shire River Improvement Trust Area”. Trusts are established under the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940* and are accountable to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines.

The Trust area currently covers part of the local government area of the Western Downs Regional Council.

A river improvement trust is closely linked to a local government (or joint local governments) in whose area the trust operates. Local government initiates the establishment of a trust and then (on behalf of its ratepayers in the trust’s improvement area) support the trust financially, administratively and operationally. The State Government currently provides some limited financial support to trusts as a grant to the State Council of River Trusts Queensland Inc., for apportionment to trusts for works approved and subsequently completed under an annual works program.

A trust is a body corporate and subject to laws governing corporate operations and administration. In addition to its enabling legislation, the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940*, as a statutory body which expends public monies, a trust is subject to the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*, other legislation, and the common law.

The membership of a trust consists of:

- a chairperson (elected by the trust members and appointed by the Minister or if there is only 1 community member the Minister must appoint that member as chairperson)
- two representatives of, and appointed by, each local government whose local government area is included in the trust’s improvement area
- up to 2 other members appointed by the Minister.

The Wambo Shire River Improvement Trust operates with a single member appointed by the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. This position description is for that member.

A member of a trust is responsible for engaging with other trust members to ensure that the trust fully meets its statutory obligations, uses its funds efficiently and effectively, and operates within the interests of the community it serves. Corporate governance principles require trust members to act in the interest of the trust.

A member of the trust would preferably be a community representative who resides within the trust’s proclaimed area, and has a close link to a community or industry group

that has a significant interest in and understanding of river improvement, flood management and natural resource management issues.

The person should **not** be an elected member of any local government associated with the trust, as local government has separate mandatory representation on trusts.

A trust is supported by a secretary and engineer/works overseer, and may employ staff or engage consultants and contractors to undertake design and works.

Trust members should have knowledge of:

- riverine processes and needs
- experience with broader natural resources management systems within the catchment area
- an understanding of financial arrangements and statutory requirements
- the ability to strategically plan, prioritise, and oversee a program of works.

A trust requires strong and responsible membership to assist in setting long-term directions and to achieving short-term objectives.

TRUST BUSINESS

The Trust conducts its ordinary business at the Offices of Western Downs Regional Council, 30 Marble Street, Dalby 4405.

The Trust ordinarily meets 4 times each year during normal business hours with a further 2–4 field inspections or special assignments involving either one or more or all trust members.

REMUNERATION

Members of a trust are entitled to be paid the fees and allowances that may be decided by resolution of the Trust. However, the amounts of the fees and allowances must not be more than the amounts decided for the purpose by the Governor in Council and advised to the Trust. A copy of the Schedule of approved fees and allowances is attached.

SELECTION CRITERIA AND APPOINTMENT PROCESS

A merit based selection process involving advertising and search of the Queensland Register of Nominees to Government Bodies will be applied when filling of the position of **Member of the Wambo Shire River Improvement Trust**. Prospective nominees who are listed on the register will be contacted and invited to apply.

The selection criteria relating to the position are as follows:

Selection criteria 1

The person must have and be able to demonstrate adequate knowledge and possess skills to undertake the necessary responsibilities and duties. These qualities should include:

- a) Ability to understand and meet the statutory obligations of a river improvement trust.

- b) Ability to work in a small, specific team environment.
- c) Ability to assist in the planning, development and implementation of operational works programs within a consultative framework and an ability to assist in strategically planning a long term vision for the Trust.
- d) Ability to identify the broad community position on natural resource management issues with an emphasis on river management and improvement and an ability to integrate this position into the priority directions of the Trust.
- e) An understanding of natural resource issues including river and flood management and their impacts as they relate to the Trust area.
- f) An understanding of planning and policy development and analysis approaches as they relate to the Trust's business.
- g) Knowledge of a specific industry or issue that is highly relevant to the Trust's activities.

Selection criteria 2

The person must be able to demonstrate a knowledge of and appreciation for riverine conditions in the catchment and demonstrate commitment towards river improvement to achieve sustainable outcomes.

Selection criteria 3

The person should preferably be a community representative who resides within the Trust's proclaimed area, has a close link to a community or industry group that has a significant interest in and understanding of river improvement, flood management and natural resource management issues and who can demonstrate an ability to represent the Trust within the broader community.

Selection criteria 4

The person should be available to serve for up to four (4) years with a minimum commitment to attend up to eight (8) meetings of the Trust annually and to undertake inspections and meetings with landholders and special assignments on a periodic basis.

Applicants should submit a written application which includes a response to each of the selection criteria as outlined above.

Applications close at 5pm on Monday, 12 September 2016 and should be addressed to:

**Mr. Jim Weller
Manager Water Services South Region
Department of Natural Resources and Mines
P O Box 318
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350**

Applications received will be assessed and an applicant short listing undertaken for the purpose of interview for a merit based selection recommendation. Enquiries can be made to Jim Weller, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Toowoomba on (07) 45 291397.