



**PARTNER FORUM
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**One Basin CRC Limited
(ACN 660 665 305)**

October 2022

ONE BASIN CRC LIMITED

PARTNER FORUM TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Purpose and Scope of the One Basin CRC

The One Basin CRC (1BCRC) is a national consortium of more than 85 partners to develop and commercialise opportunities for Australia's irrigated agriculture, rural water and closely related industries to be more productive, resilient and sustainable in a changing world.

One Basin Partners will identify challenges that require research solutions and co-design and deliver demand-driven outcomes at a regional scale that focus on innovation to underpin future production. The One Basin CRC partnership, across water, agriculture, First Nations, government, technology and environment responds to three shared opportunities to enable our regions to:

- Diversify economic opportunities to build resilience in the face of increasing water scarcity;
- Transition irrigated agriculture for a drier future, and
- Design smart connected water infrastructure to maximise efficiency and capacity for meeting multiple demands.

The 1BCRC's long-term vision is Australia's irrigation basins are the most productive, resilient and sustainable in the world.

2. Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Partner Forum are to:

- 2.1 Support the CRC Board as required in developing, reviewing and updating a Strategic Plan for the CRC;
- 2.2 Review Operational Plans and advise the CRC Board on their alignment with the Strategic Plan;
- 2.3 Review and prioritise Project proposals based on a transparent evaluation process;
- 2.4 Advise the Board on the selection of partners to participate in projects;
- 2.5 Receive feedback from the CRC Board and Cross-Hub Advisory Committee on Project prioritisation and incorporate this into their

deliberations;

- 2.6 Ensure Strategic Planning, Operational Plan reviews and Project prioritisation is inclusive of all Partner interests with particular attention to regional priorities and First Nations interests;
- 2.7 Provide input to CRC policies, planning and reporting;
- 2.8 Provide Partner feedback and participate in annual progress reviews of the CRC; and
- 2.9 Review and approve matters referred to in clause 4.7 of the Tier 1 and 2 Partner Agreement (Special Majority Members Issues¹).

3. **Membership**

Membership of the Partner Forum will be :

- 3.1 The Chair of the CRC Board, who will chair the Partner Forum;
- 3.2 Two directors (in addition to the Chair) selected by the Board;
- 3.3 Two members of the Cross-Hub Advisory Committee (CHAC) ensuring diverse perspectives (e.g. Northern and Southern Basin) one of whom will be the CHAC Chair or their delegate from the committee and the other selected by the Cross-Hub Advisory Committee;
- 3.4 Two First Nation's People from different Regional Advisory Committees (RACs), selected by the CHAC in consultation with the First Nations RAC members;
- 3.5 One representative selected by each Tier 1 Industry, Government & Community Partner;
- 3.6 One representative selected by each Tier 2 Industry, Government & Community Partner;
- 3.7 Up to four representatives from Tier 3 (Affiliate) Industry, Government & Community Partners, each for a maximum 3 year term, selected using the process described below;
- 3.8 Have one representative selected by each Tier 1 Research Partners who will be entitled to be heard and provide input but not vote in

¹ Special Majority Members Issues are defined in the constitution as: changes the company name or type; varying member rights; dissolving or winding up the company; carrying on activities that are inconsistent with the constitution; registration or recognition as a body corporate in any place outside Australia.

deliberations of the Partner Forum; and

3.9 Include the CEO and Program Leaders as observers.

3.10 The four Tier 3 partner representatives will include:

- A private sector agricultural advisory service;
- A natural resources consulting service provider; and
- A local government or local government peak body.

3.11 Tier 3 (Affiliate) Industry, Government & Community Partners will be invited to nominate one person each from their organisation as a candidate for the Partner Forum. Tier 3 (Affiliate) Industry, Government & Community Partners will vote for Partner Forum members using a preferential voting system where each partner's vote is equally weighted and ensuring the required sector representation is met. Terms for elected Tier 3 partners will be three years with the opportunity to renominate for election after two years.

4. **Remuneration**

Membership of the Partner Forum is voluntary (i.e. unpaid) with the exception of:

- The participation of the 1BCRC chair and directors, where participation is included as part of their broader duties for the 1BCRC Board;
- The two First Nations RAC members, who will receive a sitting fee consistent with government sitting fees for a committee of this type; and
- The two CHAC members, who will receive a sitting fee consistent with government sitting fees for a committee of this type.

Reasonable travel costs for all members will be funded by the One Basin CRC. Air travel is restricted to economy fares.

5. **Meetings**

5.1 Meet at least twice per year for Partner Forum meetings with an expectation of more frequent meetings during periods of more intense planning. Meetings will be held in person (e.g. during the annual 1BCRC

Partner Conference) and/or virtually (e.g. Zoom / Teams / Skype).

- 5.2 The agenda for each meeting will be prepared by the CEO in consultation with the Chair and emailed to all members at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. The Business Operations Manager (BOM) will prepare minutes of each meeting and email these to participants within 15 working days after the meeting. If within 10 working days of the issue of the minutes, no objection has been raised to these minutes, they shall be considered adopted.
- 5.3 Objections/comments must be raised, in writing or via email, addressed to the Chair, who will request any amendments to the minutes from the BOM, who will then circulate the amended version to the Partner Forum members.
- 5.4 A quorum for meeting purposes is 70% or more of members.

6. **Criteria for Prioritising Projects**

The Partner Forum will recommend criteria for evaluating and prioritizing project proposals and a transparent process to apply these. When they have been approved by the Board, these criteria and processes will be added to this ToR.

7. **Review**

These ToR will be reviewed after 6 months or earlier if the Committee deems it necessary and annually thereafter. The Committee will assess its performance against the ToR annually and report on its performance to the Board including any suggested amendments to the ToR.

APPROVAL

Approved By:

Wendy Craik
Chair, One Basin CRC Limited Board

Date : [tbc] 2022

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