



Mr John Williams
Chair
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
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Dear Mr Williams

I am writing following the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation's (FRDC) annual performance meeting with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) held on 14 September 2023.

The meeting provides an opportunity for FRDC to demonstrate its performance against 5 performance principles. I am pleased to confirm that the department considers that FRDC has performed to a high standard across these principles for the 2022-2023 period.

During the assessment cycle, the department obtained feedback from FRDC's representative organisations. The feedback emphasised FRDC's strong commitment to the sector and its responsive stakeholder engagement to inform its direction. FRDC's engagement with First Nations stakeholders, commitment to innovation and continuous improvement mindset were highlighted as key strengths.

Recognising the feedback received and FRDC's commitment to continuous improvement, the department and FRDC identified three focus areas to enhance outcomes:

- Increasing strategic engagement and post-project outputs: extending engagement with stakeholders beyond projects including further information sharing and tapping into industry knowledge and feedback about relevant global drivers and the socio-political landscape.
- Enhancing transparency and broadening inputs to priority setting: sharing information about criteria for project selections, making project performance metrics available and where reasonable, providing opportunities for stakeholders to have broader input into priority setting.
- Enhancing project governance: keeping project information, changes and key contacts updated and communicating to stakeholders in real time and via FRDC's website.

An independent review of FRDC's performance is scheduled for 2023–2024 and FRDC has provided the department with the proposed review parameters, including draft Terms of Reference. I appreciate the FRDC's initiative in this matter and note the department will be in touch shortly to finalise the review's terms with FRDC.

Thank you for your leadership of FRDC and FRDC's efforts over the last 12 months. FRDC is continuing to deliver important research, development and extension outcomes for stakeholders. As discussed during the performance meeting, we welcome feedback on any further support the department can provide to FRDC as it takes forward its significant work program in collaboration with stakeholders.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Cully', written in a cursive style.

Emma Cully

A/g First Assistant Secretary

10 / 10 / 2023