

High-Level Consultation Plan

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) invests in research, development and extension (RD&E) to increase economic, social and environmental benefits for Australian fishing, aquaculture and the wider community.

The FRDC engages and consults with stakeholders through regular and ad hoc consultation to understand stakeholders' priorities and guide our investments.

In all consultation, we seek to understand our stakeholders' needs and priorities and we seek to facilitate stakeholder input by providing a range of ways for stakeholders to engage with us.

We strive for best-practice stakeholder engagement by ensuring that our engagement is:

- transparent
- accessible
- straightforward
- well-planned
- fit for purpose, and
- responsive.

The FRDC is committed to continuously improving how we meaningfully engage with our stakeholders.

Table 1 below provides a check list for FRDC for:

- planning consultation
- conducting consultation
- reporting on the outcomes of consultation, and
- evaluating consultation.

Prior to undertaking each significant consultation event (where stakeholders provide formal input into FRDC's strategy and investment), the FRDC will complete a short and targeted consultation plan that describes how each of the elements described within Table 1 have been considered.

A short event survey will also be completed post event to gather information that will assist in evaluating effectiveness, and value from the perspective of participants. Information collected will inform the FRDC's process of continual improvement.

Table 1: Elements of best-practice consultation

Transparent	Accessible	Straight-forward	Well planned	Fit for purpose	Responsive
Clearly communicate consultation expectations, roles and responsibilities	Use plain English	Clearly communicate time commitment expectations and be efficient	Use purpose-driven, timely, appropriate and adaptable consultation	Tailor consultation to what stakeholders want and need to know	Collect data on the most effective methods
Invite and accept feedback	Ensure information is easy to understand and appropriate for the audience	Understand that there are other demands - including seasonal ones - on stakeholders' time	Set realistic timeframes	Adapt and tailor consultation to the audience	Evaluate and review how FRDC consults
Demonstrate how stakeholder input has been incorporated	Include summaries to highlight key information	Monitor and evaluate where stakeholders want regular consultation	Engage early	Use the most appropriate methods	Seek informal feedback and review performance
Clearly advise the reasons if stakeholder input cannot be incorporated	Adapt or modify the consultation approach based on stakeholder needs	Use targeted or group requests to increase efficiency and reduce burden	Provide multiple opportunities for feedback	Adjust consultation to fit the issue, stakeholders, time and resources	Be evidence-based and accountable
Communicate key decisions and opportunities for input	Publish key information and research on easily searched platforms	Streamline consultation across RDCs	Link to industry events and AGMs		Be aware of consultation fatigue and adjust accordingly
Be transparent about the reasons if any information cannot be shared	Ensure all stakeholders have the opportunity to contribute	Use trusted and established industry pathways to consult			
Use shared platforms and forums to engage	Respond promptly to queries and respect stakeholder input				