**Gunbower Island Community Reference Group**

Expression of Interest form

### Background

Gunbower Forest and Gunbower Creek are recognised as high priority environmental assets within the North Central region. The North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) manage projects that aim to improve the health of Gunbower Forest and Gunbower Creek.

The North Central CMA recognises that community engagement is an important aspect of delivering successful projects. The Gunbower Island Community Reference Group (CRG) provides an important opportunity for community members and North Central CMA project staff to work collaboratively towards the implementation of projects that will benefit the Gunbower Forest and Gunbower Creek.

The current major projects being delivered in the Gunbower Island region are:

* **The Living MurrayProgram**, which aims to maintain and improve the health of water-dependent ecosystems such as the river red gum woodlands, wetlands and wildlife of Gunbower Forest and Gunbower Creek through the delivery of environmental water.
* **The Gunbower and Lower Loddon Native Fish Recovery Plan** aims to improve waterway health and increase native fish populations within the Torrumbarry Irrigation District. The Plan addresses three key factors on the decline of native fish populations and species: loss of connectivity for fish movement and migration, alteration of natural flows regimes and loss of habitat.

Along with these major projects there are a range of other projects that the CMA is currently, or in the future will be delivering, in and around the Gunbower Forest and Gunbower Creek. Guest speakers from these projects and experts in a range of fields will occasionally be invited to present to the CRG.

Role of Community Reference Group

The purpose of the Gunbower Island CRG is to provide an effective communication conduit between the CMA and the local community. This will enable the local community to develop a better understanding of the projects and initiatives being proposed and delivered in and around the Gunbower Forest and Gunbower Creek and to provide feedback on those projects. It will also assist the North Central CMA to develop and implement projects in balance with local knowledge and communicate project ideas, progress and outcomes with the broader community.

Membership

Membership is voluntary, with meetings held quarterly during normal business hours. Nominations are encouraged from representatives of local community groups, recreational groups, agriculture or farming enterprises, tourism bodies, volunteer organisations or community-minded individuals.

#### Expressions of Interest Application Form

Expressions of Interest will be accepted until midday on **Friday 8th February 2019**. The North Central CMA will offer a field trip for successful candidates prior to the first meeting of the CRG. The first CRG meeting of this year will be held on Friday 22nd February 2019.

**Name:**

**Organisation/interest group represented (if applicable):**

**Postal Address:**

**Email Address:**

**Contact phone numbers:**

**Please provide a brief response to the following selection criteria.**

1. Please list your experience with natural resource management, if any:
2. Please detail your knowledge and history of involvement with the local community within the project area:
3. Please outline your experience and commitment to make positive contributions within a committee-like process:
4. Please tell us why you think it is important to increase community understanding of the North Central CMA Gunbower Island projects activities:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_