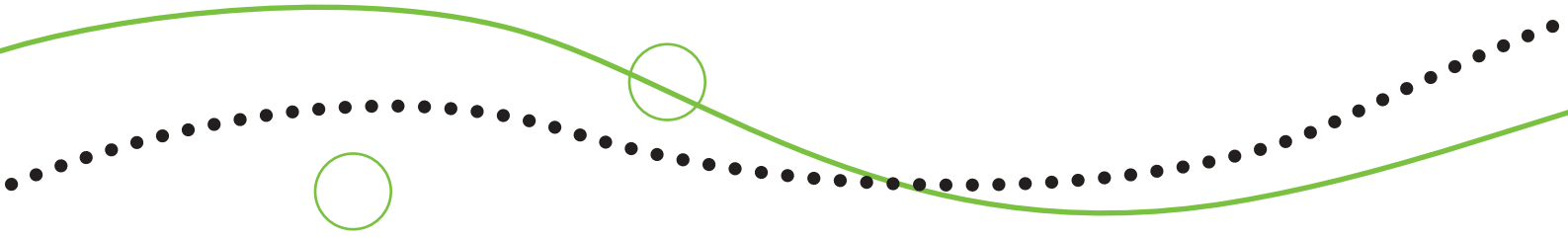


# people

The Australian River Restoration Centre's premise is that people are the most important resource for river management and protection, as it is the personal connections people feel for their stream, creek or section of river that motivates them to get involved. The Centre will interpret technical knowledge so that non-technical people can understand and apply it to their own situation. The Centre will also be a facilitator, bringing together organisations and groups to share their experiences in river management, and to plan and implement future river projects.



There is a huge demand across the country for knowledge, skills and proven expertise in all aspects of river management, but there is lack of connection between this demand and the capacity of a small number of people with the required knowledge to meet that demand. Australia has under-invested in science and training for effective river management, and our research organisations or government agencies are unable to service the existing need.

Australia badly needs an organisation to fill the widening gap between aspiration and practice in river management and protection. The Australian River Restoration Centre intends to fill this role.

# rivers



# Our response

The Australian River Restoration Centre will be modelled on the successful European River Restoration Centres (hence its title). It will operate independently and work to develop a reputation for sound, impartial advice and support. It will be linked to the European Centres as well as initiatives in North America, Canada and Asia. These connections will provide opportunities for Australians to share their experiences and learn from techniques applied elsewhere.

The Australian Centre will provide an efficient, effective way to share knowledge about all aspects of river and riparian management or restoration. For example, it will develop guidelines that describe practical methods to achieve particular outcomes, it will put people in touch with experts who can provide specific advice, it will organise workshops so people can share their findings, and it will establish exchange programs to keep new ideas flowing into communities across Australia. The Centre will use an interactive web portal to enable anyone who seeks advice to contact the people able to provide it.

The Centre's emphasis is on the interaction of people by developing relationships, building trust and confidence, empowering people to act and increasing individual, organisational and community capacity to improve the management of our rivers. We want to celebrate river restoration as a positive step towards maintaining the health of our water resources. The Centre will be established for the long-term, in contrast to some land and water management programs that only have two- or three-year time frames. People who access the Centre's resources will be confident that the advice, information and events offered will be independent, relevant, science-based and have continuity.

*celebrate*



# How can you help?

The Australian River Restoration Centre is being established with an independent Board of Directors and will be run as a not-for-profit business. It will sell its services and products, reinvesting the proceeds in its operations, and aims to become largely self-sufficient over a three-year period. We are now seeking business and private sponsors to assist the Centre over its start-up phase by providing financial support and access to business skills.

The Centre offers investors the opportunity to be a part of a national hub for river-related information and activities. It will be the first point of contact for any person or organisation wanting to know about rivers — whether they be a farmer, irrigator, journalist, ecologist, student, landcare group facilitator or catchment management employee. Anyone with an interest in rivers will be able to access the Centre's services — a situation no other organisation in Australia is currently addressing.

Becoming a sponsor of the Centre will lead to wide and favourable public exposure through your association with an organisation that supports, facilitates and achieves positive outcomes for rivers throughout Australia. Sponsorship will directly involve you, or your organisation, in one of the most important areas of environmental management and restoration in Australia. The Centre offers different levels of sponsorship and involvement, and a package can be tailored to meet the needs and interests of your organisation.

## Further information

The proponents of the Australian River Restoration Centre are:

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*together*

