

Biosphere Establishes a Regional Recognition Program for Western Port Water Stewards

The Western Port Biosphere has established the first regional recognition program in the water stewardship framework and is being considered as a model for other programs in Europe, the US and China. In November 2017, **Inghams Enterprises Pty Limited**, Somerville, and **Peninsula Fresh Organics**, Baxter, were the first businesses to have fulfilled the requirements of the program. These two participants have completed Site Water Stewardship Plans that conform to the International Standard for Water Stewardship, and the actions outlined in their plans will produce demonstrable improvements to water and land management on their properties and will significantly contribute to the sustainability of the Biosphere.

How does the Regional Recognition Program Work?

This section sets forth the requirements for self-verification assessment for Western Port Biosphere Water Stewards against the AWS International Water Stewardship Standard.

All Self Verification Assessments are to be completed following the Alliance for Water Stewardship Self Verification Requirements and will be registered with Alliance for Water Stewardship.



Each Landholder, business or organisation will receive a certificate and a gate sign, as well as the rights to display the name and logo on a website or in publications, indicating they are “Western Port Biosphere Water Stewards” provided they meet the following conditions:

1. They have a completed Site Water Stewardship Plan using the Biosphere accredited template (which conforms to the International Standard for Water Stewardship), and;
2. They have completed a complete self-verification assessment, and;
3. This has been verified by a Biosphere staff member with Advanced Water Stewardship Training (using a checklist to assess if they have met the standard).

or

4. They have a 3rd Party verified Site Water Stewardship Plan.

To indicate that a farm, business or organisation is a water steward we have produced a logo and a gate sign which can be displayed by recognised water stewards (as above). The details of the correct logo and signage use is below:

Category		Who	Requirements
General Logo		Partners and Supporters	Involvement in program – Partners and Supporters – Agreement with Biosphere. Must have link to website page of Western Port Biosphere Water Stewardship Project www.biosphere.org.au/biosphere-projects/water-stewardship
		Water stewards developing a plan	Water Stewards developing a plan need to have signed a commitment form to participate in the Western Port Biosphere Water Stewardship Project and provide a link to website www.biosphere.org.au/biosphere-projects/water-stewardship
Water Stewards' Gate sign		Water Stewards with completed Site WS Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed a Site Water Stewardship Plan using the Biosphere accredited template (which conforms to the International Standard for Water Stewardship), and; 2. They have completed a complete self-verification assessment, and; 3. This has been verified by a Biosphere staff member with Advanced Water Stewardship Training (using a checklist to assess if they have met the standard); <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. They have a 3rd Party verified Site Water Stewardship Plan.

If you wish to become a Water Steward please see www.biosphere.org.au/biosphere-projects/water-stewardship or contact Lance Lloyd at the Western Port Biosphere Water Stewardship on ph. 0412 007 997 or email lancel@biosphere.org.au