

Science and Education Committee – Terms of Reference

Role

The role of the Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation **Science and Education Committee** is to assist the Board to discharge its responsibilities for science, education and research

Responsibilities

The Science and Education Committee is responsible for:

- a) Overseeing the science and education work of the Foundation,
- b) Articulating and implementing a research strategy and research action plan for the Western Port Biosphere, consistent with UNESCO MaB program and the Lima Action Plan,
- c) Building and sharing knowledge through science (including social science) and education endeavours,
- d) Developing and maintaining mutually constructive relationships with reputable scientific and educational institutions,
- e) Promoting the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve as a preferred location for scientific research.
- f) Using up-to-date scientific knowledge to develop new education and research proposals for consideration by the Board of Directors
- g) Recommending to the Board specific projects that could be pursued to deliver the objectives of the Foundation

Authority

This committee reports to the Board and makes recommendations to the board. Public statements and decisions on significant matters or positions are reserved for the Board. This committee's Chair will be invited as an observer at Board meetings.

Members

- A nominee of the Board
- A Chair appointed by the Board
- A member of the Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Committee
- 7 – 12 general members who are knowledgeable scientists with genuine connections into universities and research institutions, with a mix of the following expertise:
 - Science expertise – social science, ecology, marine science, natural resource management, agricultural science, climate science
 - Education expertise and knowledge - primary and secondary school, tertiary and community education.

Meetings

The Science and Education Committee will meet bi-monthly. The Science and Education Committee will meet jointly with the Board at least annually. Meetings will be open to observers, and a summary of the committee's activities will be published on the Foundation's website.