



**Peter Cullen
Water and
Environment Trust**

General Information

The Peter Cullen Trust works with scientists, policy makers and political leaders to bridge science, people and the environment through funding and facilitating programs that contribute to improved rural and urban water management in Australia.

Our Mission / Our Vision

The Peter Cullen Water & Environment Trust was launched in 2009 with the mission:

Bridging Science, People and the Environment.

Our Vision is of a world where water and the environment are managed sustainably and equitably.

Our Foundation

The Trust was founded on the philosophy that to improve Australia's water and environmental management, we need to enhance the link between good science and effective policy making. This requires effective leadership skills, particularly around communicating in ways that brings science to life and makes it relevant for politicians and policy makers. It also requires respectful, informed and meaningful collaboration which is the key to responsible and sustainable water management, now and in the future.

The late Professor Peter Cullen AO was a water scientist with a superb capacity to synthesise and communicate complex ideas in a simple, clear way to local communities, policy makers and politicians. Peter made an enormous contribution to the management of water resources in Australia and was instrumental in elevating the need for water reform to a topic of national debate. He was highly influential in Australian government decisions to invest at unprecedented levels in the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, the National Water Initiative, and the National Plan for Water Security.

The Trust is a registered charity and a Deductible Gift Recipient.



Our Strategic Intent

The Trust aims to respect the legacy of Peter Cullen by working towards our Strategic Goals:

1. Strengthen the understanding between science, policy and stakeholders in management of water and environment;
2. Support researchers and professionals who can 'speak for the rivers' with clarity and credibility;
3. Promote informed exchange and debate on important water and environmental management issues;
4. Build capacity in science and policy for water and environmental management;
5. Build links between the scientific and political communities in order to promote effective management of our river systems.

Our Programs

The flagship initiatives of the Trust are its leadership training programs for emerging leaders in the water and environment sector in Australia. The renowned *Science to Policy Leadership Program* is a challenging and highly-regarded initiative, now well established on the national development calendar. This is complemented by the *Women in Water Leadership Program*, first offered in 2016. The Trust also designs and delivers bespoke programs across our region.

The Trust supports the delivery of the annual Peter Cullen Lecture as well as fostering respectful and constructive conversations around water issues through forums, roundtable discussions and informal lunches and gatherings with thought leaders.

Additionally, the Trust delivers a Fellows Mentoring Program and supports the Peter Cullen Trust Fellows Network. The Network in turn delivers ongoing opportunities for development, exchange and action – including through community and public policy engagement on water and environmental management issues.

The Trust operates through an inclusive structure which encourages engagement between and contributions from the Board, Trust staff, the Fellows and Friends.

Peter Cullen's legacy

Peter Cullen is remembered for his superb capacity to synthesise and communicate complex ideas simply and clearly to local communities, policy makers and politicians, in a way that supported them to make decisions and take action.



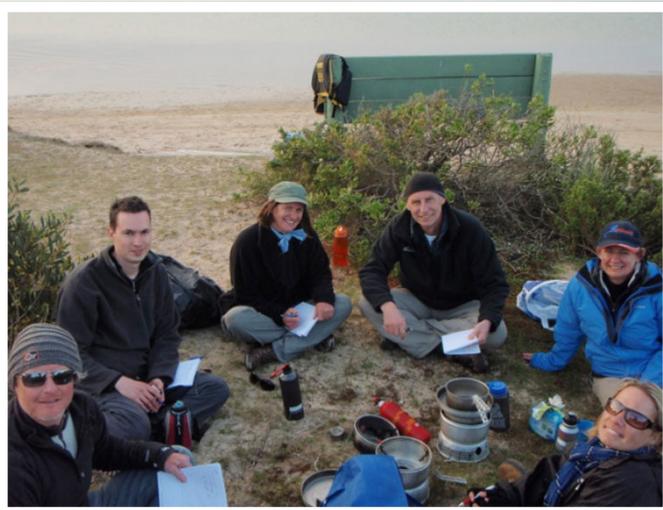



Peter Cullen Trust Fellows Network

The Trust's Fellows Network

The Peter Cullen Trust Fellows are graduates of our leadership programs and form a national network of mutual support and ongoing professional development. The Trust works with Fellows in a variety of ways, such as offering a Mentoring Program and supports the Fellows run Professional Development Strategy.

There are hundreds Fellows nationally, who actively contribute through being ambassadors for the Trust, organising activities, events, speakers, providing intellectual content, and through offering continual learning and support to each other.



Participant feedback

How we deliver

The Trust collaborates with sponsoring organisations to identify emerging leaders to participate in the Trust's programs. As a 'sponsor', these organisations fully-fund their employee's participation in the leadership program.

The Trust also offers a limited number of fully-funded scholarships, to support indigenous participation, participation from the community and NFP sectors, and to support gender equality across the Trust's offerings.

Friends of The Peter Cullen Trust

The network of Friends of the Peter Cullen Trust is important to the Trust achieving its mission. Friends share their time and expertise, they add to the depth of the Trust's programs, publish in the Trust's newsletter Bridging and are pivotal in the mentoring of Fellows.

The Board extends invitations to influential people in the water and environment sectors to become a Friend. Current members include many eminent figures such as department secretaries, chief executive officers, scientists and retired politicians.

"You are completely immersed, it enables you to break down barriers and this is about working through the process together. I've got more out of this two weeks than anything I've ever done, ever".

"It was an opportunity to connect, to make the most of those connections, and to work out who I am to be and how to make a difference".