



## Memorandum of Understanding for becoming a Permaculture Research Institute 'Master Plan' site

**Preamble:** For background on this document, go here:

[www.permaculturenews.org/2012/06/12/pri-networking-the-value-of-collaboration-and-the-development-of-more-pri-education-demonstration-projects](http://www.permaculturenews.org/2012/06/12/pri-networking-the-value-of-collaboration-and-the-development-of-more-pri-education-demonstration-projects)

The Mission of the Permaculture Research Institute of Australia is to work with individuals and communities worldwide, to expand the knowledge and practice of integrated, sustainable agriculture and culture using the whole-systems approach of permaculture design. This will provide solutions for permanent abundance by training local people to become leaders of sustainable development in their communities and countries.

Permaculture integrates land, resources, people and the environment through mutually beneficial synergies – imitating the no waste, closed loop systems seen in diverse natural systems. Permaculture studies and applies holistic solutions that are applicable in rural and urban contexts at any scale. It is a multidisciplinary toolbox including agriculture, water harvesting and hydrology, energy, natural building, forestry, waste management, animal systems, aquaculture, appropriate technology, economics and community development.

The Permaculture Research Institute of Australia works to establish a global network of educational demonstration sites, which operate as education centres that seek to replicate themselves across their respective surrounding regions. Each demonstration site seeks to become financially self-sufficient within three years through both reducing the need for cash inputs by providing as much of their own needs, sustainably, from the land-base of the project itself, and through selling knowledge - running courses to help others follow their example. Each educational demonstration site thus works to build communities around them where locals can re-skill and transition to live resilient lives independent of the globalised, industrial system.

Each site would provide local employment in the following positions: teacher, project/farm manager, and administrator. These positions will also provide mentoring for paying students as advanced training for permaculture project work.

Transitional financial assistance for such projects can come by way of students from wealthier countries/situations subsidising the training of local people through their course attendance and fees, whilst those students simultaneously gain benefits in cultural exchange and exposure to local, traditional skills. Local students, in turn, also learn to appreciate the instruction, as the presence of international students helps them gain confidence in the value of the course.

All courses will specialise in the appropriate technologies and systems specific to each country and region, both culturally and biologically.

The ultimate aim is a worldwide network of interdependent communities who can cooperate to vision and rebuild economic harmony that is not dependent on perpetual growth or resource depletion and which reinvests all surpluses into their people and the land. The goal is to create self-replicating demonstration sites which will not only spread permaculture education worldwide, but also share knowledge and techniques between sites for the advancing of permaculture design systems themselves.

**Conditions:**

1. The organisation has to be registered as a non-profit.
2. The organisation must have permanent or very long term secure access to land that can be used as a permaculture demonstration site. The land could be in the categories of urban, rural or broad degraded ecosystem and should represent typical land in the region, so it can showcase systems and techniques that are doable by the general local population.
3. There must be a desire to establish a permaculture education centre teaching PRI accredited PDCs and running PRI accredited internships and other PRI accredited specialist permaculture courses.
4. All PDCs taught at PRI sites need to be taught by PRI accredited teachers. All PRI sites needs to have at least one PRI accredited PDC teacher on the admin staff, who will lead out with education and ensure any visiting teachers (teaching assistants and/or teachers of specialised/niche courses) maintain a high standard and to ensure all subjective metaphysical elements are kept out of all classes. PRI registered teachers can be found on <http://www.permacultureglobal.com> (use the 'PRI Teacher' search filter), and individuals can 'apply to be a PRI PDC Teacher' via their <http://www.permacultureglobal.com> personal profile. Once reviewed and approved, respective teachers' course outlines are downloadable from the teacher's profile, available for prospective students to view.
5. The organisation and teachers must not include metaphysical elements in their curriculum and teaching. All instruction must be science-based, and not belief-based: <http://permaculturenews.org/2011/12/08/permaculture-and-metaphysics>.
6. PRI registered teachers pay an annual registration fee of \$200, which includes \$200 worth of free course advertising every year on <http://www.permacultureglobal.com>, where they can advertise as many courses as they like for that period on their educational project. This will also make their project profile show up on the 'Projects with courses' tab.\*
7. The organisation's admin and team members should publish their profiles on <http://www.permacultureglobal.com>, and get themselves added as 'Admin' and 'Team Members' on the WPN profile for the project they're all involved in. Once done, the project's main administrator can write to editor (at) permaculture.org.au requesting that their project's WPN profile be marked as a Permaculture Master Plan site (gold badge).
8. Project leaders can make use of the high readership of <http://www.permaculturenews.org> for advertising courses and for attracting interest and support worldwide. Free course advertising on the main page of <http://www.permaculturenews.org> is possible by, when sending the course advert, also sending an additional non-promotional article that gives the reader something to take away (practical knowledge and/or inspiration and/or interesting commentary, etc.). This latter article helps build readership, which attracts more traffic to the course adverts.\*\*
9. The PRI course listing (<http://www.permaculturenews.org/courses>) and its booking form can be utilised by PRI Master Plan sites for their course for \$200 for any course under 10 days or \$500 for a PDC or Internship. For maximum effect, team members should make regular updates for posting on <http://www.permacultureglobal.com> and <http://www.permaculturenews.org> - updates which give the reader something to take away (inspiration, knowledge, interesting commentary, human interest stories, etc.), which all leads to increased interest in permaculture and in supporting the project with student fees and other means.\*
10. PRI Australia prints and numbers and registers all certificates at a nominal charge.

11. The name of the PRI site must be hyperlocal. Example name: 'PRI Zaytuna Farm, Australia'. i.e. 'PRI Property Name, Country'. Please see this article for more info on this aspect:  
<http://www.permaculturenews.org/2013/05/10/naming-convention-for-permaculture-research-institute-master-plan-sites>

Page | 3 \*The PRI is a registered and audited non-profit. All funds go towards: 1) Further development of the WPN, 2) Improvements in course booking systems, and 3) Assisting educational/demonstration projects.  
\*\*Course adverts and non-promotional articles, along with images, should be sent to: editor (at) permaculturenews.org

**Note:** All prices quoted exclude GST, which must be added for Australian people/projects.

**To be completed by the main administrator for the new PRI site and have it delivered to the PRI address found in this document's footer:**

I \_\_\_\_\_ agree and align myself with the purposes and conditions outlined above, and wish to cooperate with the Permaculture Research Institute of Australia to establish and develop a Permaculture Research Institute at the following address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Website (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_