



**LAKE EYRE BASIN MINISTERIAL FORUM**  
**Community Advisory Committee**

**MEETING No. 16 (Phone Conference)**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

**SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES**

**REVIEW OF THE LEB AGREEMENT—Final response**

- The first, formal, 5-year review of the Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement was conducted in late 2006/early 2007 by an independent consultant contracted by the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Water Resources on behalf of the LEB Ministerial Forum. The review report was completed in June 2007.
- The recommendations of the review have been discussed in detail by the LEB participating Governments, the LEB Community Advisory Committee and the LEB Scientific Advisory Panel. Proposed responses to the review recommendations have been discussed and agreed, and will be submitted to the LEB Ministerial Forum for their consideration as soon as possible after the November 2007 Federal election.

**2008 MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS**

- Propose to hold the 4th LEB Biennial Conference in mid-September 2008, at a location in the Queensland section of the Lake Eyre Basin.
- Propose to hold both joint and separate meetings of the LEB Community Advisory Committee and the LEB Scientific Advisory Panel in:
  1. late February/early March 2008; and
  2. mid-September 2008, in conjunction with the 4<sup>th</sup> LEB Biennial Conference
- Location and date of the 3rd Lake Eyre Basin Aboriginal Forum to be further discussed following formal appointment of the 4 additional Aboriginal members of the LEB Community Advisory Committee.

**CANE TOADS**

**Key Issues discussed**

- Cane Toads are successfully colonising areas previously thought to be unsuitable because of low rainfall, and have been reported at locations in the Cooper Creek system up to 70km south of Longreach. It is important to obtain a quick and accurate estimate of the current distribution of Cane Toads in the Basin.

**Actions**

- Subject to further discussions with the LEB Scientific Advisory Panel, support for a community survey of landholders in the Queensland section of the Lake Eyre Basin will be sought from the LEB Ministerial Forum and from the relevant regional NRM Boards, in order to map the current distribution of Cane Toads in the Basin, and if possible recent changes in their distribution in the Basin.

## **FERAL CAMELS**

- Management of Feral Camels in the Basin requires collaboration between jurisdictions and between NRM regions.
- A number of current collaborative projects for Feral Camel management in arid Australia have potential relevance to the Lake Eyre Basin, and we will remain informed of progress with this work.
- Feral camels in the LEB will be included as a discussion item at the joint NRM Boards/LEB Jurisdictions workshop in 2008 and at the 4th LEB Biennial Conference in September 2008.
- Further advice on the importance and impact of Feral Camels in the LEB will be sought from the LEB Scientific Advisory Panel.

## **FIRE MANAGEMENT**

- Management of fire in the Basin requires collaboration both across state borders and across regional NRM boundaries.
- Fire management in the LEB will be included on the agenda of the joint NRM Board/LEB Jurisdiction discussions in 2008, and we will remain informed of emerging discussions of fire management among NRM Boards and others in the Basin.

## **DRAFT LEB COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

- A draft Communications Strategy for the LEB Agreement has been compiled, and has been reviewed and discussed by the LEB participating jurisdictions and the LEB Community Advisory Committee. The draft Strategy will be submitted to the LEB Ministerial Forum for their consideration as soon as possible after the November 2007 Federal Election.
- Key elements of the draft LEB Communications Strategy are:
  - proposed annual review of LEB communications activities and development of an annual, budgetted LEB Communications Action Plan;
  - proposed employment of a full time Communications Officer for 12 months.

## **PROPOSED LEB ABORIGINAL MAP**

- A proposal to develop an Aboriginal map of the Lake Eyre Basin has been compiled. The proposed map would provide a pictorial overview of the Aboriginal presence in the Lake Eyre Basin, raise awareness of Aboriginal culture and existing Aboriginal management of land in the LEB, and facilitate increasing Aboriginal engagement with other stakeholders and agencies in the Basin. Project management and costing for the proposed map are currently being discussed, and will be submitted to the LEB Ministerial Forum for their consideration as soon as possible after the November 2007 Federal Election.
- If the proposed map is approved and developed, the potential to compile further information products on Aboriginal people and land in the Basin, to accompany the LEB Aboriginal map, will be discussed as the mapping project proceeds.

## **LEB SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROJECT**

- The LEB Socio-Economic Project 'People, Communities and Economies of the Lake Eyre Basin' is scheduled for completion in June 2008. The LEB CAC stresses the importance of utilising the knowledge and outcomes of the project in substantial and proactive ways following project completion in order to benefit the future implementation of the LEB Agreement, and will begin discussing with the project team how best to achieve this.