



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE **MEETING No. 24 Canberra, Wed 2 – Thur 3 March 2011**

SUMMARY OF KEY OUTCOMES

Strategic Adaptive Management (SAM)

Key Issues

- Introduction/presentations on the SAM process
- Long-term vision for the Lake Eyre Basin – workshop discussions to build consensus on a shared vision.
- Stakeholder collaboration and involvement in the SAM process – brainstorm session: who do we need to collaborate with?

Actions

- Report back to CAC with workshop outputs – vision statements and lists of stakeholder groups and organisations. Priorities needed among stakeholder groups.

Coal Seam Gas & Underground Coal Gasification – presentation: Peter Baker DSEWPaC

Key Issues

- Access road network (fragmentation of ecosystems, loss of productive lands, alienation of landholders and other stakeholders); well-spacing (e.g. every 750m for several kilometres in some areas).
- Management of associated water (highly likely to impact on GAB aquifers and surface flow regimes, especially in an ephemeral flow system such as the LEB); salinity and heavy metal contamination, fracturing fluids, cross-contamination of groundwater resources, changed stream ecology.
- National outlook – huge reserves of gas in Qld — By 2020 projected that CSG will account for almost 50% of eastern Australian gas production. Prospective areas in the LEB: Moomba and Longreach/Muttaborra regions (Galilee Basin)
- Regulation:
 - Almost entirely state and territory legislation (Petroleum/Gas/Energy Acts, Environmental Protection Acts, Water Acts)
 - Commonwealth involvement: via Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act – only triggered if a project affects ‘Matters of National Environmental Significance’

Actions

- CAC Chair to write to relevant NT Gov’t Ministers requesting further information about how the NT Government are managing potential threats to the Simpson Desert from mineral and petroleum exploration activities.

Proposed Wild River declaration — Cooper Creek Catchment

Key Issues

- Presentation from Terry Boyle, Dept Environment and Resource Management, Brisbane.

- Wild River declaration would NOT change:
 - Existing approved developments and activities
 - Development application processes
 - Grazing activities
 - Day to day activities (e.g.) weed and pest management
 - Recreational activities – boating, camping, fishing
 - Native Title
- Wild River declaration WOULD limit or prevent a number of activities (e.g. surface mining, large dams, feedlots, piggeries) in High Preservation Areas and Special Floodplain Management Areas (i.e. channel country) and in Nominated Waterways.
- Qld Gov't obliged, under the Wild Rivers Act, to seek cross-border protection where a declared Wild River area adjoins a state or territory border.
- Qld DERM are still exploring implications of Wild River declaration for Coal Seam Gas
- CAC and SAP provided joint submission/recommendations on the LEB Wild Rivers Policy Consultation Paper early 2010.
- Comments and submissions currently due 29 April 2011.

Actions

- CAC sub-committee (Angus Emmott, Matt Turner, Sharon Oldfield, Scott Gorringe, Judith Harrison, with Vol Norris) to work on a CAC submission out of session via email and telelink, including reviewing previous CAC and SAP comments on the Policy Consultation Paper, and whether they have been addressed.

2011 CAC report to LEB Ministerial Forum

Key Issues

- Issues raised by members for inclusion in the CAC report to Ministers:
 - Tourism impacts
 - Pest plants and animals (including pigs)
 - Mining and petroleum, including in the Simpson Desert
 - Ability of CAC to fulfill its function adequately
 - Water planning — specific entitlements for Aboriginal allocations of water
 - Responsiveness of NRM funding to environmental change (e.g. for fire management)
 - Futuring/foresighting for the LEB.

Actions

- CAC sub-committee (Angus Emmott, Leonie Nunn, Janet Brook, Matt Turner, George Cooley, Natalie Turner, Dave Dolman, with Vol Norris) to work on a draft CAC report to LEB Ministerial Forum out of session via email and telelink.

Impacts of LEB Tourism

Recommendations

- CAC agreement on 5 recommendations to LEB Ministerial Forum to address LEB Tourism:
 - recommend a collaborative LEB Tourism Communication Program
 - nomination of the Oodnadatta/Finke Track corridor for National Heritage Listing

- approach key agencies in Qld, SA and the NT about lack of a consistent, cross-border approach to tourism management in the Simpson Desert, seeking recommendations on addressing this need, and raising the possibility of a Simpson Desert Forum
- that the LEB Rivers Assessment include monitoring of tourism pressures and impacts
- that the LEB MF pursue avenues to broaden the scope of environmental and natural resource management funding to include tourism as a land use with serious land and water management implications

Actions

- These recommendations, with minor modifications, to be included in CAC report to the LEB Ministerial Forum 2011.

2010 LEB conference and foresighting/futuring work

Key Issues

- Proposal discussed for further foresighting/futuring work to make best use of the 2010 LEB conference outcomes — to include discussions of a common future, shapers/drivers, ranking for impact and uncertainty, Futuring Workshop (scenarios and responses), synthesis and reporting/communication of outputs.
- Proposal is intended to enhance the value of outputs from the LEB Conference Sep 2010, generate new thinking about possibilities/consequences, locate new points of influence to enhance LEB values, put into practice foresighting/futuring as envisaged in the LEB Five-Year Action Plan, contribute to Strategic Adaptive Management and other risk-focused approaches in the LEB
- Exercise will be modest in scope (due to resource constraints), will make best use of information and knowledge already at hand, and will provide meaningful and valuable process and outputs.

Recommendations

- CAC agreed that the foresighting/futuring work should be carried forward as proposed, so long as outputs and benefits are clear.

LEB MF Draft Annual report to the Community

Actions

- LEB CAC Chair's message in the Ministers' Report to include mention of the Cooper Creek Water Resource Plan review, and the current increase in fire risk in the Basin following good rain seasons.

CAC members written briefings

Key Issues discussed

- Brief written updates are of great value, and should be continued for future meetings.
- Purpose of the updates: to provide information to the committee and government observers AND to provide a place for members to make specific recommendations for CAC's consideration. All members are welcome to make recommendations to the CAC in their updates, or at any other time and through any convenient avenue.

Actions

- Copies of all CAC minutes, when passed, to be distributed to all LEB NRM Boards.

2011 LEB Aboriginal Forum 13-15 September 2011

Key Issues

- Attendance: invite First People's Water Engagement Council (to give update on defining and dealing with Aboriginal water allocations), and Qld Wild Rivers representative. All CAC members are welcome to attend.
- Any CAC members who wish to be part of the steering committee and are not already, please let Vol Norris know.

Review of Caring for Our Country

Key Issues

- Presentation by Mikaela Griffiths and James Wright of the CfoC review task force (DSEWPaC). All options for the CfoC program are on the table, including learning from other programs elsewhere in the world. This will be the last major review before 2016 or 2017.
- Stakeholder forums have been conducted – summaries of outcomes are available on the web.
- Consultation period until 20 May 2011. A web site is being set up to enable public access of comments provided by others. All feedback welcome.

CAC member travel arrangements

Actions

- Angus Emmott to circulate his concerns to all CAC members concerning flight booking arrangements and remote travel procedures/safety planning.
- Angus Emmott, Sharon Oldfield, Joc Schmiechen to work with Derek White and Judy Radcliffe to develop an LEB CAC remote travel safety process that works for all.

Aboriginal water allocations

Key Issues

- Request from the Aboriginal members for CAC support for seeking a specific Aboriginal water allocation in water management plans in the Basin.

Actions

- Ian Fox and Vol Norris to arrange a presentation to the next meeting from NT Government water planners on how they are approaching Aboriginal water allocations in the NT, in the context of the National Water Initiative.
- Scott Gorringer and Vol Norris to seek CAC members' views out of session.

Next CAC meeting

Key Issues

- Next CAC meeting in November 2011 – Longreach, or Mount Isa – LEB Facilitator/Secretariat to confirm location and arrangements.