



LAKE EYRE BASIN MINISTERIAL FORUM

Community Advisory Committee

MEETING No. 21

27-28 September 2009

LAKE EYRE BASIN MINISTERIAL FORUM

**Community Advisory Committee
and Scientific Advisory Panel**

JOINT MEETING No. 8

28 September 2009

Voyages Alice Springs Resort

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

LEB Agreement planning

- As of May 2009, work occurring under the LEB Agreement has been consolidated into several core planning documents:

- LEB Five Year Action Plan 2009 to 2014
- LEB Knowledge Strategy April 2009
- LEB Communication Strategy April 2008
- LEB Communication Plan 2008-2011

... and formal operating protocols for:

- LEB Community Ministerial Forum
- LEB Senior Officers Group
- LEB Community Advisory Committee
- LEB Scientific Advisory Panel
- LEB Secretariat and Facilitator

LEB Rivers Assessment

- The LEB CAC and SAP resolved that:
 - a collaborative approach to the LEB Rivers Assessment is preferred, and would be a major, positive step forward
 - an adaptive management approach for the Rivers Assessment is needed, in parallel with a suite of 'no regrets' resource condition monitoring
 - such an adaptive management approach needs to involve a number of key responding/management agencies in developing and planning the monitoring
 - a 'State-of-the-Basin' report should be compiled for the LEB every 5 years.
- A business case and negotiated funding package, with multiple contributing parties, is intended to be submitted to the LEB Ministerial Forum at its meeting in April 2010.

LEB Information systems

- CAC and SAP recommend **not** to proceed with the large, complicated and expensive database system proposed in the recent LEBRRIS consultancy, but to instead:
 - establish a front-end web portal on the LEB Agreement web site that directs people to existing databases (including Water Information System for the Environment – WISE, and Australian Collaborative Rangelands Information System – ACRIS)
 - compile an e-Library of LEB documents either in one of the above existing systems, or in a place that can be accessed via one of the above existing systems.

Cooper Creek Water Planning

- The CAC and SAP will write to the Qld Minister for Natural Resources and Water, commending the Minister on his intention to roll together the review of the Cooper Creek Water Resource Plan and the Wild Rivers nomination process for the Cooper Creek, and reaffirming out commitment to assist with both processes where we can.
- The letter will also request a briefing from the Department of Environment and Resource Management on how the Wild Rivers Code would be modified for the arid rivers of the LEB, and to formally invite relevant staff to attend the next CAC and SAP meetings.

LEB minerals and energy exploration—coal seam gas

- A presentation was given by Central Petroleum Ltd on their coal seam gas and natural gas exploration in the Simpson Desert and far western Qld. The LEB CAC resolved to continue to focus in its advice to Ministers on mineral and energy development as a major potential source of impact in the Basin.

LEB Aboriginal involvement

- The third LEB Aboriginal Forum was held in Birdsville 12-14 May 2009. In response to the Forum, the following initiatives are proposed:
 - Production of LEB powerpoint presentations/slide shows, for Aboriginal (and other) LEB CAC members to present to groups, meetings, workshops, gatherings that they attend as part of their other roles.
 - Formalising and maintaining a calendar of Aboriginal (and other) events for LEB presentations, and continual updating of the growing LEB Aboriginal contact database.
 - LEB Aboriginal Ranger proposal for funding — to be developed for possible future funding under Caring for Our Country (also possibly augmented by Qld Gov't Wild Rivers Rangers funding)
 - Compilation of the LEB Aboriginal map, as already planned.
 - Support for a joint GAB/LEB project to map mound springs cultural and natural values
 - Community education/involvement in the LEB Rivers Assessment

- An options paper will be developed for progressing these initiatives, by a working group of the six Aboriginal LEB CAC members plus Angus Emmott, David Alexander and Joc Schmiechen.
- The fourth LEB Aboriginal Forum is proposed to be held in winter 2011 in Tibooburra, western NSW.

Proposed GAB/LEB mapping — Indigenous cultural values of artesian springs

- The CAC and SAP agreed in principle to continue to be engaged in this project proposed by Alan Holt. It is understood that Alan will next seek GABCC support for the proposal, and if supported, will begin compiling a draft business plan.
- LEB CAC members willing to be involved in a working group are:
 - Angus Emmott
 - Joc Schmiechen
 - George Cooley
 - Judith Harrison
 - David Alexander
 - Dave Dolman

LEB tourism

- A consultant has been contracted to review the 2004 report 'Lake Eyre Basin Heritage Tourism Future Directions', to report on its relevance to the LEB Agreement and 5-Yr Action Plan, on its implementation, and on other reports, recommendations or actions that may now be relevant to the management of tourism impacts on Lake Eyre Basin natural and cultural resources. The review is expected to be finished in March 2010.

Potential Heritage listings

- In March 2008 the Australian Heritage Council nominated the Birdsville and Strzelecki Tracks Area to be assessed for inclusion in the National Heritage List. They will now be assessed.
- The LEB CAC resolved to alert the Heritage Council to three other existing areas of outstanding heritage tourism value in the LEB that could potentially take precedence over the Birdsville and Strzelecki Tracks: the Oodnadatta/Finke track heritage tourism corridor, the Innamincka/Cooper Creek heritage precinct, and the Simpson Desert in its entirety.

LEB colour map — update and reprint

- The existing LEB colour wall map is out of print, and will be updated and reprinted. Stage one (review of themes and data, and development of project scope for update) has

been completed by Desert Channels Qld. Stage two (design and compilation) and Stage three (printing) will commenced shortly with call for tenders based on the project scope.

LEB Logo

- A new LEB logo is being developed based on the logo in use.

5th Biennial LEB Conference 2010

- The 5th biennial LEB Conference will be held late in 2010 in Alice Springs. A steering committee has been formed, Chaired by the LEB Facilitator, and will begin regular phone conferences in November 2009.

Next LEB CAC Meeting

- The next LEB CAC meeting (Meeting 22) will be held in Broken Hill the week of 1 March 2010.