

**LAKE EYRE BASIN MINISTERIAL FORUM
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING No. 1 Longreach, QLD
Friday 21 November 2003
SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES**

CAC PROCESS ISSUES

- The role of the CAC (see the attached introductory sheet) is to provide community advice, representation and feedback to the Lake Eyre Basin Ministerial Forum in relation to water and related natural resource issues in the Lake Eyre Basin, in particular issues with the potential for cross-border impacts.
- This was the first meeting of the newly reconstituted CAC. The Lake Eyre Basin Coordinating Group operated as the CAC from 2000 until 2002. The new CAC consists of thirteen members representing a wide range of interests from within the Lake Eyre Basin. Contact details for all CAC members and the full-time Facilitator are on the attached introductory sheet.
- The CAC will meet 3 to 4 times per year, where possible at locations in the Lake Eyre Basin.
- CAC meetings will be open to any interested observers, with provision for closed sessions to allow the committee to discuss sensitive or confidential matters in private if necessary.
- The area covered by the Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement is currently limited to those portions of the Cooper Creek and Diamantina River systems that lie within Queensland and South Australia. However, consistent with the spirit and intent of the Intergovernmental Agreement, the CAC has undertaken to advise the Ministerial Forum of matters that come to its attention in regard to areas currently outside the Agreement area, but within the broader Lake Eyre Basin.
- The CAC will develop a work plan for the coming 12 months.
- Interested people are encouraged to notify any of the CAC members or Chair, or the CAC Facilitator, of any issues they wish to bring to the attention of the CAC at its next meeting, currently scheduled for 4th and 5th February 2004 in Adelaide. Matters to be discussed at that meeting will include the draft Georgina-Diamantina Water Management Plan, and petroleum exploration activity in the basin.
- The CAC wishes to build strong links with the Lake Eyre Basin Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP), and to this end will seek a joint meeting with the SAP at its next

meeting in Adelaide in February 2004. The CAC in particular wishes to obtain an update on the State of the Rivers Assessment project.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Cooper Creek Water Management Plan

- In regard to recent community suggestions that the Cooper Creek Water Management Plan should be subject to an early review, with the objective of providing for increased water use and transferability of water licences, the CAC has advised the Lake Eyre Basin Ministerial Forum that in its view:
 - proposals of this nature are likely to continue to be raised in future;
 - there is a diversity of views in the community in regard to proposals such as this, ranging from some support to serious concerns;
 - a clear and consistent protocol for assessing such proposals is needed, to ensure that the real economic, social and environmental costs and benefits to the whole basin community are properly considered.
- The CAC also advised the Ministerial Forum that it supports the current process and timetable for review of the Cooper Creek Water Management Plan, scheduled for 2010.

NHT Project funds—Operational timing

The issue of delays in the delivery of funds to approved NHT projects was raised with the CAC, in particular delays in funding for projects that are built around inflexible seasonal constraints. While NHT funding is not the core business of the CAC, the committee nevertheless recommended to the Ministerial Forum that the objectives of the Natural Heritage Trust would be better served if protocols were developed between the relevant State and Commonwealth jurisdictions to prevent undue funding delays, particularly for projects founded upon crucial issues of timing such as drought and rainfall.

Indigenous Cultural Heritage Issues

Indigenous Cultural Heritage issues in the Lake Eyre Basin were discussed at some length by the Committee at its first meeting, and will continue to be at the fore of the Committee's discussions. Indigenous people have a strong interest in all matters brought before the Committee, and the CAC is committed to ensuring that the views of Indigenous people in the Lake Eyre Basin are effectively canvassed and faithfully represented to the Ministerial Forum.