



LAKE EYRE BASIN MINISTERIAL FORUM

Community Advisory Committee

MEETING No. 5 Alice Springs

Tuesday 16th November, 2004

AND

Joint Community Advisory Committee/Scientific Advisory Panel

MEETING No. 2 Alice Springs

Wednesday 17th November, 2004

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

BIENNIAL LAKE EYRE BASIN CONFERENCE—2004

Key Issues discussed

- Differences between the 2002 conference and the 2004 conference—different Ministerial Forum involvement, different meetings held at the same time (catchment committee meetings, Aboriginal Forum), different levels of community participation.
- The need to begin planning for the 2006 conference now, with clear desired outcomes for the conference.

Actions

- Subcommittee to develop recommendations for the planning and conduct of the 2006 conference, including options for structure/format of the conference, and a timetable of tasks to be done in preparation.
- CAC and SAP to jointly advise Ministers that the 2004 conference was successful and work has begun on planning the 2006 conference.

LEB Aboriginal Forum—Hamilton Downs

Key Issues discussed

- The success of the Aboriginal Forum, the need to continue this involvement, in particular the need to keep the people who attended engaged in the process.
- Recommendations of the Aboriginal Forum—partnerships and communication networks; membership on the CAC; cultural awareness education for non-Aboriginal people; the need for a social/community profile of Aboriginal people in the basin; education of children and passing on knowledge.
- The need for consultation with Aboriginal people in each state/territory about the forum recommendations.

Actions

- CAC to write to all attendees at the Aboriginal Forum to inform them of progress on following up their recommendations.

- CAC to inform the Ministers of the forum and its recommendations, noting where we believe these recommendations will, or will not, be met by the CAC's current proposals, and recommending in particular that CAC membership include up to 2 Aboriginal people per state/territory.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STUDY OF THE BASIN—Project Proposal

Key Issues discussed

- The background and need for the study
- The large number of similar studies being done for other regions in Australia.
- The independent call from participants at the Aboriginal Forum for a social and community study of Aboriginal people in the Basin
- Potential timing, staging, funding sources and collaborative partners for the study.

Actions

- Initial review of available information to be conducted and an interpretation written of implications for the LEB. This to be done with the assistance of the Bureau of Rural Sciences if possible, or otherwise funded under the up-coming regional competitive bid process.
- This initial review to form the basis of a more comprehensive project proposal for the basin, including potential collaborative partners, to be discussed at the next CAC and CAC/SAP meetings in March 2005.
- Build and maintain links with the related project work being done under the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre.

DRAFT STRATEGIES—under the LEB Agreement

Key Issues discussed

- The importance of progressing the draft strategies
- Difficulties experienced in getting feedback on the drafts.
- The need for a concerted effort to review and update the current drafts before facilitating a joint discussion at the joint CAC/SAP meeting in March 2005.

Actions

- Update the current draft strategies into a more manageable document (add emerging issues, note which strategies are being implemented and by whom, note which strategies are not currently being addressed, Group the strategies into categories for clarity).
- Circulate the updated draft to CAC and SAP members, gov't officers and LEB stakeholder groups before the joint CAC/SAP meeting in March 05. Review and recommend a way forward at the joint meeting.

LAKE EYRE BASIN RIVERS ASSESSMENT

Key Issues discussed

- The independent scientific review of the LEB Rivers Assessment Methodology Report, which strongly supported the methodology.
- Potential community involvement in monitoring (e.g. for fish kills), and the need for community feedback on the values that underpin the current methodology report.
- Need for Aboriginal Cultural review of monitoring locations, and the need to monitor the protection of Aboriginal cultural values of the LEB rivers.
- The need to maintain dialogue with community members and groups, and links with current monitoring projects and programs.
- Uncertainty about how much of the Rivers Assessment monitoring work will be done as separate, stand-alone projects, and how much will be done by those currently monitoring the basin resources (e.g. state/territory jurisdictions).

Actions

- Establish and maintain a communication network with major community stakeholders in regard to the Rivers Assessment.
- Add '*the maintenance and protection of Aboriginal sites of significance*' to the list of community values that underpin the LEB Rivers Assessment, and further discuss via the Aboriginal Forum how to monitor this value.
- The Rivers Assessment Steering Committee, augmented with key people from the State and Territory jurisdictions, to hold a one-day workshop to progress the Rivers Assessment methodology—work through the current methodology report, produce a draft outline of a monitoring program based on that report and on the State and Territory needs, and discuss the arrangements most appropriate to deliver the program.

LAKE EYRE BASIN HERITAGE TOURISM REPORT

Key Issues discussed

- The importance of tourism as a growing impact on the basin.
- The broad scope of the report, the relevance of its recommendations to many different organisations and government portfolios, and the need for the CAC to extract critical elements to address.
- The absence of an owner-organisation for the report, following the winding down of LEBCG activity.

Actions

- CAC subcommittee to extract key issues and recommendations from the report, advise the Ministerial Forum of the importance of the report and the reasons for this, and encourage the Ministers to pass the report on to their tourism colleagues and relevant organisations and jurisdictions.