



LAKE EYRE BASIN MINISTERIAL FORUM

Community Advisory Committee

MEETING No. 6 Adelaide

Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd March 2005

AND

Joint Community Advisory Committee/Scientific Advisory Panel

MEETING No. 3 Adelaide

Wednesday 2nd March 2005

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

STRATEGIES UNDER THE LEB AGREEMENT

Key Issues discussed

- Categories of strategies for the Basin, and the risks (or threats) that they address.
- The need to prioritise among strategies according to risk, and according to how much they may already be addressed by existing programs and investments in the Basin.
- The need to maintain a record of current NRM investment and programs in different jurisdictions of the Basin.

Actions

- Finish collecting information on current (or planned) investment and programs relevant to each proposed strategy; identify strategies that are not yet adequately addressed; and present these results at the next meeting to allow priorities to be decided. Maintain this record of current NRM investment and work in the basin for periodic update.

REVIEW OF THE LEB AGREEMENT

Key Issues discussed

- Timing of the review: to be done after April 2006.
- Future role of the Agreement with regard to current political processes and other NRM arrangements between the Commonwealth and States (e.g. NHT2 regional NRM planning, National Water Initiative).
- The need to document the achievements of the Agreement and the return on the Government investment into the LEB Agreement to date, and to identify the critical issues that require this three-state collaborative approach to continue.

Actions

- Document the benefits and successes of the LEB Agreement over the last five years, and those we expect in the next five years. Report to CAC meeting 7 with an outline.

- Draft terms of reference for review of the LEB Agreement to be provided to the CAC and SAP for their discussion at a later meeting, and for subsequent comment and feedback.

LEB RIVERS ASSESSMENT

Key Issues discussed

- Plans for the workshop in Brisbane in March to discuss and recommend details monitoring and pilot programs.
- The need for regional NRM group representatives to be present at the Brisbane workshop, to get a sense of the way the Rivers Assessment is being planned.
- The need to inform the basin community about progress with the Rivers Assessment.

Actions

- Write an information sheet on progress with the Rivers Assessment project, for information of the Basin community, to include with the next 'News from the LEB CAC'.

ABORIGINAL ISSUES

Key Issues discussed

- Indigenous knowledge and its potential contribution to basin management.
- The need to explore ways to nominate further Aboriginal members to the CAC, if the Ministerial Forum supports this increase in membership.
- The recommendation from the 2004 LEB Aboriginal Forum that an Agreement between the LEB Aboriginal people and the CAC or Government be written.
- Options for conducting an Aboriginal cultural awareness program for the LEB.
- Potential contribution of the Queensland Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act to LEB Aboriginal issues.

Actions

- During consultations with Aboriginal people in the basin, including at the next LEB Aboriginal Forum:
 - explore how we might build Indigenous Knowledge into the LEB Knowledge Strategy (e.g. recording Indigenous Knowledge 'Assets');
 - discuss the best way to nominate and select extra Aboriginal members on the CAC;
 - describe our current processes for involving Aboriginal people in the LEB Agreement, seek feedback on possible improvements to these processes, and seek feedback on whether these are sufficient to remove the need for an LEB Aboriginal Agreement.

- Obtain copies of sample agreements from SA Dept for Environment and Heritage, to assist in consideration of the need or otherwise for an LEB Aboriginal agreement.
- Review available cultural awareness programs and assess their ability to meet LEB needs. Explore the possibility of running a joint cultural awareness program that deals with differences among Aboriginal cultural protocols in different parts of the basin. Obtain information on the South Australian Government's database of cultural awareness providers.
- In our advice to the Ministerial Forum, note that we have had positive feedback from the community about the Qld Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003. Request a presentation on the Qld Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act at a future CAC meeting.

LEB AGREEMENT AREA

Key Issues discussed

- Consultations by the South Australian Government in northern SA about the preferred location of the LEB Agreement area in South Australia.
- Merits or otherwise of including areas to the north, west and south of Lake Eyre in the Agreement Area.

Actions

- Advise the Ministerial Forum that we commend the South Australian Government's efforts to consult communities in the north of the State about the location of the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement Area boundary, and recommend that the rivers to the west of Lake Eyre (the Neales catchment) be considered for inclusion in the Agreement area.

2006 LEB CONFERENCE

Key Issues discussed

- Links between the 2006 LEB conference and the 2006 review of the LEB Agreement.
- The opportunity to showcase the Basin, its culture, and the achievements of its people, groups, industries and communities at the 2006 conference.
- Potential to examine links with GAB issues at the conference.

Actions

- Conference committee to report to CAC and SAP at the June meetings on proposals for the conference arrangements, in preparation for submission to the Ministerial Forum at its October 2005 meeting.

WATER RESOURCE PLANNING

Key Issues discussed

- Development of the draft Georgina Diamantina Resource Operations Plan (ROP), its imminent release for public comment, and the need for the CAC to review and comment on the draft.
- Links with NT landholders in development of the ROP.
- Recommendation from the Cooper's Creek Catchment Committee that stronger links be made between the Queensland Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2000 and the SA Arid Areas Catchment Water Management Plan currently being developed.

Actions

- Review the draft GD ROP when it is release for public comment, and compile a response on behalf of the CAC.
- Advise the Ministerial Forum that the Cooper's Creek Catchment Committee has recommended stronger links between the water resources planning in Queensland and South Australia.
- Seek feedback from the SA Arid Areas Catchment Water Management Board as to whether their Catchment Water Management Plan and Water Allocation Plan take into account the Qld Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2000.
- Discuss further at CAC meeting 7 (June 2005) the need for a detailed assessment of water resource planning in all jurisdictions of the Basin, to identify similarities and differences that may affect water resource management in the Basin.