

People, Communities & Economies of the Lake Eyre Basin

This is a study about the rich social and cultural diversity within the Lake Eyre Basin. The study aims to define: Who we are, our circumstances and backgrounds, how we make our livelihoods, how we operate our businesses and look after our country and most importantly, how we organise ourselves and make decisions.

This project will improve everyone's understanding of the people who live and work in the Lake Eyre Basin, and how they work together with governments to care for country.

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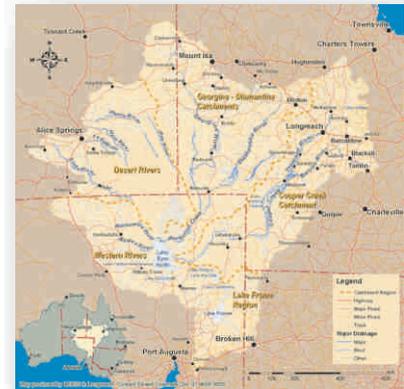
Why do we need this project?

The Lake Eyre Basin is a special place: it is one of the largest internally draining river systems in the world, it is relatively undisturbed, and has highly variable rainfall and streamflow. The Basin sustains valuable pastoral, mining, petroleum and tourist industries in a country that still contains much of its natural diversity. Looking after such a place calls for careful balance. The LEB community needs to ensure that natural resources can continue to be used to support their lifestyles and improve productivity while they look after the resources that they depend on. At the same time longstanding environmental problems such as weeds, feral animals and river health need to be addressed.



Isis Downs QLD

People utilising natural resources in the Lake Eyre Basin spend time and money looking after their country. Governments help and encourage them by investing in such things as communication programs, funding grants, community groups, research projects, incentive and regulatory systems. Some of these schemes and programs work well with the people and country of the Lake Eyre Basin, and some do not.



Map of Lake Eyre Basin

Who is part of the LEB Community ?

There are many diverse 'communities' in different circumstances in the Lake Eyre Basin. Designing schemes that will result in successful on-ground outcomes depends on the people, place and circumstances for which the scheme is designed. This project will study the range of people, communities and management schemes, in order to work out the most effective ways for governments, communities and other stakeholders to work with each other in caring for the country.

What will we be doing?

Regional profiles.

The project team will gather existing information about the people, communities and economies of the Basin, including Indigenous peoples, and present this information clearly as regional profiles.



People and institutions.

Governments and the community have already invested in many different institutions, or ways of working together, to manage natural resources in the Lake Eyre Basin. By talking to the people most closely involved, the project team will try to understand and learn which of these have worked well, and which have not. Using this knowledge, the team will describe the characteristics of these arrangements that are most likely to have good outcomes for natural resource management in the Basin.

Key Case Studies.

The project team will then select a number of groups or programs that contribute most effectively to caring for the Basin's resources. These will be analysed in depth to understand more about why they are important and why they succeed.

We will then work with government organisations and the community to help improve existing arrangements in the Basin based on what we have learned.



GAB Bore Water Cooling Pond - Mungerannie SA

Future monitoring.

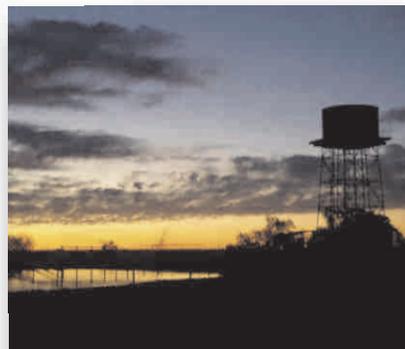
An important aim of this project is to be able to continue adapting our natural resource management structures and processes in response to important social and economic change. We will then describe how best to monitor these changes in order to better manage their effects. This will allow the long term observation of the social and economic pulse of the basin, and allow change as needed to the natural resource management arrangements.



Barcoo River near Jundah QLD



Bowen Downs QLD



Bowen Downs QLD

Who is doing this project?

This study is being coordinated by the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre, based in Alice Springs, with the support and guidance of the Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Committee and the Lake Eyre Basin Scientific Advisory Panel.

The Study is funded under the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust, and is included in the work carried out within the Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement.

How can I become involved?

This project will run for three years, during which time we will be talking to many people who live in the Basin or who are closely involved with the area. The project team hopes that you will take every opportunity to become involved.

We believe that if we work together to gather and share knowledge about people, communities, cultures and economies within the Basin and continue to do so in the future, the decisions we make about natural resources in the area will be stronger and more relevant. Desert Knowledge CRC invites you to be a part of this process.

Soil Sampling Mitchell Grass Field Day - Juno QLD

