

Regional natural resource management in the Lake Eyre Basin

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Key questions on regional natural resource management

1. What is the situation now and how did we get here?
2. How is it working? And for adaptive management?
3. What could we do better?

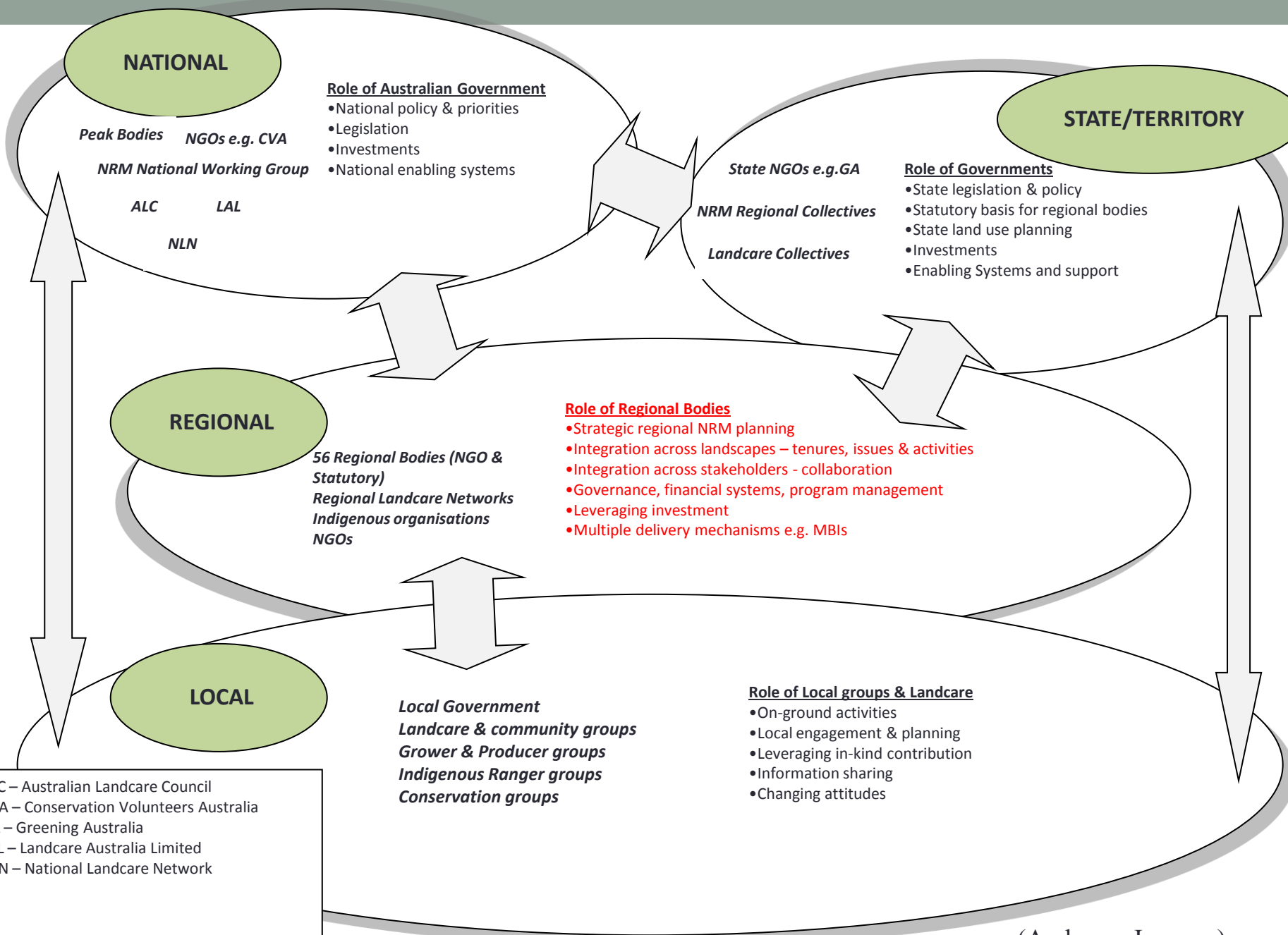
It's about governance

What do you think we need from these arrangements?

National regional NRM bodies history

- Developing for over 60 years
- Statutory based in some States since early 1990s
- 1999 “Blue book” C’wealth paper on regionalisation:
Devolving authority and empowering regions
Regional NRM strategies
- Regional bodies established across Australia (2002 and 2004) through bilateral agreements

What does it look like now?



ALC – Australian Landcare Council
 CVA – Conservation Volunteers Australia
 GA – Greening Australia
 LAL – Landcare Australia Limited
 NLN – National Landcare Network

Regional Bodies Roles

- Strategic regional NRM planning
- Community participation
- Program delivery - multiple ways
- Working across landscapes with all stakeholders
- Accountable - governance, financial systems, & program management
- Leveraging investment


Regional NRM at a national level

National cooperation through Chairs and CEOs such as the National Working Group


- ✓ Work with Commonwealth agencies
- ✓ Support and learn from each other
- ✓ Collaborate on national issues -
 - Regional Environmental Accounts
 - Performance excellence
 - Indigenous Land Management

LEB regional NRM history

Prior to mid 1990s – No LEB-wide group or process. Many groups in each jurisdiction and at different levels e.g. SA Soil Board, local Landcare groups.




LEB initiative (late 90s) – a cross border community-based structure including overarching group with cross-border catchment groups.



LEB Intergovernmental Agreement (2000 on) – LEB Ministerial forum, LEB Community Advisory Committee (originally LEBCG), LEB Scientific Advisory Panel.



Regional NRM bodies (2002 on) – Jurisdictionally based regional bodies established through bilaterals: Desert Channels (Qld), South Australian Arid Lands (SA), and Territory Natural Resource Management (NT). Now sit on LEBCAC



Next ?–

What does NRM and adaptive management require?

- Enduring but adaptive **frameworks**;
- Learning and participatory **processes and culture**; and
- **Capacity** (individual and organisational)

YET

“A paradigm based on planning for efficiency, standardizing for easier social control, and reducing variability has come to pervade bureaucratic practices. Environmental problems are framed as technical and administrative challenges devoid of politics.” (Lebel et al 2006)

Do we have the frameworks, culture and capacity we need?



Is the current model working for LEB?

LEBCAC

- Plays advisory role
- A government run process
- Not supported by a participatory multi-level structure
- Relies upon existing social capital and relationships
- Scant resources to follow through

Dialogue and negotiation

“ a special kind of joining and openness in negotiation and leads to newly emerging understanding. The parties learn about the problem together and have a high regard for each others’ interests.”

“...Goals emerge from mutual inquiry. Those involved must be flexible and adaptive rather than controlling in response to uncertainty. The process can lead to new understandings of problems and possible solutions.” (Kolb 1993)

How do we establish ongoing dialogue and negotiation?

How do we maintain and build relationships?

Is the current model working for LEB?

Regional bodies

Boundaries and scale

- Planning at their own regional levels not LEB or its catchments and not usually across borders

Relevance and priority

- Investment priorities for regional NRM dominated by Commonwealth so can't necessarily fund LEB work
- Caught up by other demands in their region
- Different arrangements in the different jurisdictions

Are we equipped for the Future?

- With faster, potentially large, changes in land and water use such as mining and petroleum;
- With climate change and the additional complexity and uncertainty it brings;
- And the adaptation processes required?

Are our LEB governance
arrangements sufficient?

“Who takes responsibility?”

Adaptive governance – Embedded in place, community and culture

"The critical knowledge for sustainability can be defined as follows: its local legitimacy; its creation and recreation; its adaptive quality; and its embedded nature in social processes. This knowledge ties people to the land and to one another." (Pretty 2002:147)



Relevant reading if you'd like more

- Andrews, K 2003 – ‘Negotiating a future in the Lake Eyre Basin’, *Proceedings of the International Biennale on Negotiation*, Negocia, Paris.
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- Huntjens et al (2012) Institutional design propositions for the governance of adaptation to climate change in the water sector, in *Global Environmental Change* Vol 22:67-81
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- Ostrom E (1990) *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
- Pretty, Jules (2002) *Agri-Culture: Reconnecting People, Land and Nature*, London, Earthscan
- Ryan S, Broderick K, Sneddon Y, Andrews K (2010) - *Australia's NRM Governance System. Foundations and Principles for meeting Future Challenges*. Australian Regional NRM Chairs: Canberra
- Schusler, Decker and Pfeffer (2003) Social Learning for Collaborative Natural Resource Management, in *Society and Natural Resources*, Vol 15:309–326
- Senate enquiry into NRM and conservation challenges (Senate Standing Committee on Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport 2010)