

# Western Rivers Advisory Panel Report

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*To the Honourable Andrew Cripps MP  
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines*



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## 1.0 Introduction

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During the election campaign for the 2012 Queensland Election, the Liberal National Party gave a commitment, that, if elected, they would move to repeal the Wild River Declarations for the Cape York Peninsular and to work with locals and other stakeholders about appropriate environmental protections for the Western Rivers.

With the election of the Liberal National Party government, the Honourable Andrew Cripps MP – Minister for Natural Resources and Mines was given the responsibility of progressing the government’s election commitment on the Western Rivers in the Lake Eyre Basin.

The Terms of Reference for the Western Rivers Advisory Panel outlines that the Charter Letter from Premier Newman to the Honourable Andrew Cripps MP - Minister for Natural Resources and Mines and contains a first term task to “commence development of alternative strategies to protect Western Rivers, while still allowing sustainable development to proceed, in cooperation with the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection”. The Terms of Reference also outlines that the Cooper Creek, Georgina and Diamantina Rivers, which form Queensland’s part of the Lake Eyre Basin (LEB) are regarded as Queensland’s “Western Rivers”. The Minister subsequently decided to establish a Western Rivers Advisory Panel (WRAP) to seek community input into the development of “alternative strategies” for the protection of the Western Rivers.

At the inaugural meeting of the WRAP, Minister Cripps indicated that the Government does not support the Wild River declarations for the Cooper and Georgina/Diamantina Basins and that the Government will develop an alternative framework for the protection of these Western Rivers. He outlined that the current Wild River declarations will not be withdrawn until an alternative framework is ready to be implemented and that the future framework may include non-regulatory options and partnerships. Minister Cripps also asked the WRAP to be open minded to the possibility of “small scale” irrigation. To assist the Minister to progress this agenda, the WRAP was requested to provide advice on what natural assets and values in the Lake Eyre Basin the local community saw as being appropriate to protect and to provide local input on the potential expansion of “small scale” irrigation in the Basin.

## 2.0 Purpose of this Report

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This Report presents the views of the WRAP on the natural assets and values in the Lake Eyre Basin which the Basin community would like to see protected in an alternative strategy for the protection of the Western Rivers and the community’s views on the potential expansion of “small scale” irrigation in the Queensland part of the Lake Eyre Basin.

It is appreciated that due to the diversity of stakeholder interests on the WRAP, that the Panel was not able to always come to a consensus view on all matters, however the Report presents an analysis of the dichotomy of views on priority issues for the future sustainable development and management of the Basin, as well as some recommendations for the Minister’s consideration.

## 3.0 Terms of Reference for the Western Rivers Advisory Panel

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In establishing the Western Rivers Advisory Panel (WRAP), Minister Cripps released a Terms of Reference which provided details on the composition of the WRAP, the process for forming the WRAP, the purpose of the WRAP, the specific scope of the WRAP, the support to be provided by Government Agencies to the WRAP, the conduct of the WRAP's meetings, the remuneration of the WRAP's members and the reporting requirements of the WRAP. Of particular note was the specific scope of the Panel which included:-

The roles and responsibilities of WRAP include, but are not limited to:

- consideration of policy matters pertaining to the western rivers and provide advice to the Minister/department on these matters
- dissemination of information on the alternative strategies to their respective interest groups and collate and provide feedback to the Minister/Department on these matters
- provision of advice and views of their constituents, on the analysis and possible options to address policy and operational issues that may arise from alternative strategies
- consider linkages between the alternative strategies and any relevant water resource plans.

The role of WRAP is advisory only and is not directive of the process to progress alternative strategies.

The full Terms of Reference for the WRAP are included in Attachment A of this Report.

## 4.0 Membership of the Western Rivers Advisory Panel

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The Terms of Reference for the WRAP outlined that the Panel was to comprise of representation from the following stakeholders:

- Local Governments (within the LEB) to include:
  - the 7 local government areas of Barcoo, Boulia, Diamantina, Winton, Longreach, Blackall -Tambo and Barcaldine,
  - the South West Qld local government areas of Quilpie and Bulloo, and
  - the North West Qld local government areas of Flinders, Cloncurry, Julia Creek and Hughenden and the City of Mt Isa.
- AgForce Queensland
- Desert Channels Queensland
- Georgina-Diamantina-Cooper Aboriginal Group
- Cooper Creek Catchment Committee
- Georgina-Diamantina Catchment Committee
- the Resources sector (mining, gas and petroleum)
- the Lake Eyre Basin – Community Advisory Committee
- the Lake Eyre Basin – Scientific Advisory Panel

Each stakeholder group has one representative on the WRAP.

The local government representation includes a representative from Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD), a representative from the south-western councils (not part of RAPAD) and a representative from the north-western councils (not part of RAPAD).

In accordance with the Terms of Reference, the Minister invited representatives of the stakeholder organisations listed above to be on the WRAP and subsequently appointed and notified nominees of their appointment.

The following people were appointed as WRAP members and as representing the following organisations:

- Councillor Julie Groves representing the Central Western local government (RAPAD), Councillor Stuart Mackenzie representing south-western local governments and Councillor Bill Bode representing north-western local governments.
- John te Kloot representing AgForce.
- Peter Douglas representing Desert Channels Queensland.
- Gerry Fogarty representing the Georgina – Diamantina – Cooper Aboriginal Group.
- Angus Emmott representing the Cooper Creek Catchment Committee.
- Robert Jansen representing the Georgina – Diamantina Catchment Committee.
- Trevor Whitelaw representing the mining, gas and petroleum industries.
- Judith Harrison representing the Lake Eyre Basin – Community Advisory Committee.
- Professor Richard Kingsford representing the Lake Eyre Basin – Scientific Advisory Panel.

## 5.0 Number of Meetings Held by Western Rivers Advisory Panel

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The inaugural meeting of the Western Rivers Advisory Panel was held on 22nd November, 2012. Minister Cripps attended this meeting and discussed his expectations of the Panel's involvement in the consultation process to assist in providing advice to him on the development of alternative strategies for the protection of the Western Rivers. Further meetings of the Panel were held on 23rd January (teleconference), 18 & 19 February and 18 & 19 March, 2013.

Minutes for the November 2012, January 2013, February 2013 and March 2013 meetings are included in Attachment B, of this Report.

Officers of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines assisted in the facilitation of these meetings, provided technical briefing papers to WRAP members and compiled data from the WRAP surveys, including follow up assessments of this data.

## 6.0 Consultation Processes Undertaken through the Western Rivers Advisory Panel

As an integral part of the WRAP consultation process, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) undertook a survey of WRAP members in November 2012, to ascertain their views “on which values or assets of the Western Rivers are most important, where protection of these values should be focussed and the level of protection that is required, and the level of stakeholder concerns about what poses the greatest risk to the health and sustainability of the Region’s river systems”.

The results of this survey indicated that the “top 10” natural assets or values in the Western Rivers on the basis of averaged importance were:-

- Weeds & pests.
- Access to groundwater.
- Maintenance of natural flows.
- Groundwater quality.
- Protection of wetlands and lakes.
- Protection of artesian springs.
- Health of aquatic fauna.
- Health of riparian/terrestrial fauna.
- Health of native pastures, and
- Surface water quality.

Out of 33 development activities listed for ranking of priority of importance in the Basin, it is noted that the top 11 activities ranked by WRAP members as posing a risk to the future sustainability of the Western Rivers included; Weeds/Pests (aquatic), Large Scale Mining, Unconventional Petroleum & Gas, Weeds and Pests (broader basin), Major Weirs, Irrigated Agriculture, Industrial Development, Conventional Petroleum & Gas, Large Overland Flow Storages, In-stream Quarry Extraction and Roads Obstructing Floodplains, Many of the natural assets/values identified in this survey were quite similar to those identified in a similar survey conducted by AgForce of its constituents.

An interesting observation is that many of the assets identified by the DNRM survey as being of “high value” and in need of protection (for example – Access to Groundwater, Maintenance of natural flows, Protection of wetlands and lakes and Health of riparian/terrestrial fauna) are being afforded a level of protection from the “high concern development activities” through the Water Plans and Wild River Declarations that have been developed for the Western Rivers systems. Some WRAP members also commented that the “natural assets” identified from the DNRM survey were nearly identical to the “Wild River values” that were identified through the Lake Eyre Basin Wild Rivers Advisory Panel process.

The DNRM survey also attempted to quantify the thinking of the WRAP members as to what was the scale of “small scale irrigation” they considered to be appropriate for the Western Rivers systems. The survey responses showed that there was no level of agreement or consensus on this issue, with the views of stakeholders ranging from an irrigated area of 10 hectares (with an entitlement of 160 ML of water per annum) through to 100 hectares for a commercial operation (with an entitlement of 1,600 ML of water per annum).

The outcomes of the DNRM November 2012 survey are included in Attachment C.

The consultation methods used by each WRAP member varied. For example, AgForce undertook a comprehensive survey of its constituents whereas other members such as the Central West local governments surveyed their member local governments however not the wider constituency.

The WRAP also received several submissions from community groups such as the Cooper Creek Protection Group and the Lake Eyre Basin – Community Advisory Committee and these submissions were tabled at the WRAP meetings and their contents were discussed and acted on by WRAP members.

## 7.0 The Natural Assets and Values of the Western Rivers and Issues that Potentially Compromise Them

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An analysis of the responses of WRAP members to the DNRM November 2012 survey resulted in the following natural assets and values worthy of protection, being identified in the catchments of the Cooper Creek and Georgina and Diamantina Rivers:

- Weed and Pest Free Environment.
- Access to Surface Water.
- Access to Groundwater.
- Natural Flows.
- River Connectivity.
- Groundwater Quality.
- Surface Water Quality.
- Wetlands and Lakes.
- Artesian Springs.
- Health of Aquatic Fauna.
- Health of Riparian and Terrestrial Vegetation.
- Connectivity of Riparian and Basin Vegetation.
- Floodplain River Connectivity.
- Health of Native Pastures.
- Indigenous Heritage, and
- European Heritage.

The WRAP meeting of 18 & 19 February, 2013 reviewed the outcomes of the DNRM November 2012 survey, which identified the following “issues of concern” as having the potential to compromise the priority natural assets and values identified above or natural assets and values they wished to see protected.

- Weeds and pests.
- Major weirs.
- Overland flow storages adjacent to aquatic areas.
- Obstruction by major roads across the floodplains.
- In-Stream Quarry Material Extraction.
- Industrial development adjacent to aquatic areas.
- Large scale mining in and adjacent to aquatic areas.
- Unconventional Petroleum & Gas in and adjacent to aquatic areas and in the broader Basin, and
- Conventional Petroleum & Gas in and adjacent to aquatic areas.

To attain a better understanding of the potential impact and priority of these “issues of concern” that may



compromise the natural assets and values of the Basin, a further survey of its members was undertaken to seek their views on the development activities listed and ranked by WRAP members as posing a risk to the future sustainability of the Western Rivers.

DNRM Officers had compiled a listing of the views / issues and comments that had been made by WRAP members to the DNRM November 2012 survey, the WRAP meetings of 18 & 19 February, 2013 and 18 & 19 March, 2013 and out of session comments by those WRAP members who were unable to attend the 18 & 12 February meeting. These views/issues and comments were compiled under the following "issues" headings.

- Mapping Areas of Focus for Protection.
- Consultation.
- General Issues such as Terms and Definitions.
- Weeds and Pests.
- Large Scale Mining in and Adjacent to Aquatic Areas.
- Unconventional and Conventional Petroleum & Gas Development in and Adjacent to Aquatic Areas/ and Unconventional Petroleum & Gas Development in the Broader Lake Eyre Basin.
- Major Weirs.
- Small Scale Irrigation Adjacent to Aquatic Areas.
- Industrial development Adjacent to Aquatic Areas.
- Large Scale Overland Flow Storages Adjacent to aquatic Areas.
- In-Stream Quarry Material Extraction, and
- Obstruction of Overland Flows by Major Roads Across the Floodplains.

A total of 190 views/issues were identified in the list compiled by DNRM officers. Of these 190 views/issues; 48 related to large scale mining; 30 related to unconventional and conventional Petroleum and Gas and 36 related to small scale irrigation. This indicated the high levels of interest and sensitivity to these three issues in the Basin. The full summary of WRAP member's individual responses to the questionnaire these 190 views/issues is included in Attachment D of this Report.

8.0 Detailed Analysis of the Issues that Potentially Compromise the Natural Assets and Values of the Western Rivers:

A detailed analysis of each of the issues identified in Section 7.0 of this Report is presented in this section.

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### Mapping Areas of Focus for Protection:

What is the Specific Issue: A total of 5 views/issues were raised by WRAP members as to how the natural assets and values of the Lake Eyre Basin identified for protection, are defined in a clear and unambiguous way in any future protection strategy?

- **What is the WRAP's Position:** A total of 51 WRAP member's responses agreed with the mapping of areas of focus for protection, 1 response disagreed and there were 3 non responses to these views/issues. However, there was a wide divergence of views of the WRAP members as to how the "natural assets and values" that should be protected in the Lake Eyre Basin, should be defined or mapped.
- **Views of WRAP members:**
  - The majority of WRAP members expressed the view that a spatial mapping process of the assets and values should be adopted.
  - AgForce do not wish to see the Wild Rivers mapping layers retained.
  - The Resources sector highlighted that the integrity of mapping is important.

### Consultation:

- **What is the Specific Issue:** A total of 2 views/issues were raised by WRAP members on consultation matters. Some WRAP members were of the view that there should be a broader level of representation on the WRAP – in particular from the environmental sector. There was also a view that when the Minister determines what the new strategy for the protection of the natural assets/values is for the Basin a community consultation process should be undertaken in the Queensland part of the Basin.
- **What is the WRAP's Position:** A total of 14 WRAP members responses agreed, 6 disagreed and 2 did not respond to these two views/issues.
- **Views of WRAP members:**
  - The Resources sector, Local Government and AgForce did not support a broader level of representation on the WRAP.
  - The NRM Groups supported a broader level of representation on the WRAP. For the purpose of this dissection the NRM Groups included Desert Channels Qld, the Cooper Creek Catchment Committee, the Georgina – Diamantina Catchment Committee, the Lake Eyre Basin – Scientific Advisory Panel, the Lake Eyre Basin – Community Advisory Committee and the Georgina/ Diamantina/Cooper Aboriginal Group.
  - All WRAP members (except the Resources sector) supported a community consultation process once the Minister has made a decision on the alternative strategy for the protection of the Basin's natural assets/values.
  - One WRAP member supported a community consultation process but expressed the view "I agree, but many people are fed up with consultation- will the gov't listen??".

## General:

- **What is the Specific Issue:** A total of 9 views/issues were raised by WRAP members on General matters. WRAP members raised issues in respect to the definitions and terminology used in plans and documents. Terms such as “major weirs”, “adjacent to aquatic areas”, “small scale irrigation”, “aquatic areas”, “broader basin” and “preservation area” mean different things to different people. To remove any ambiguity they need to be clearly defined so that there is a common and shared understanding of what is meant. This issue also included WRAP members views on alternative strategies to replace the Wild Rivers Act and that any alternative strategy should reflect the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement
- **What is the WRAP’s position:** A total of 70 WRAP members responses agreed, 20 disagreed, 5 said the view/issue was not applicable and 4 did not respond to the views/issues relating to this area.
- **Views of WRAP members:**
  - All WRAP members supported the need to have better definitions and terminology.
  - The Resources sector expressed the view that the Wild Rivers terminology should be abandoned.
  - The Local Government sector, AgForce and the Resources sector did not agree that floodplains should be defined as “aquatic areas”.
  - NW and SW – Local Government, AgForce and the Resources sector did not support an alternative legislative framework to replace the Wild Rivers Act.
  - The Local Government sector, AgForce and the Resources sector rejected the view of protecting ecological health of rivers, natural flow paths, waterholes and wetlands by prohibiting new development activities.
  - The NRM Groups supported the placing of restrictions on new development to protect the ecological health of rivers, natural flow paths, waterholes and wetlands.
  - All WRAP members (except the Resources sector) supported an alternative strategy to protect the Basin’s natural assets and values that reflected the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement.

## Weeds and Pests:

- **What is the Specific Issue:** A total of 10 views/issues were raised by WRAP members on Weeds and Pests management. Issues such as ongoing funding, the use of a Catchment or Basin approach in controlling weeds and pests, the use of stronger regulatory measures to ensure landholders undertook wild dog control and the involvement of the Indigenous (Land and Sea) Rangers in control programs were raised.
- **What is the WRAP’s Position:** A total of 85 WRAP members responses agreed, 16 disagreed, 4 said that it was not applicable and 5 did not respond to the views/issues relating to this area. The control of pests and weeds in the Basin is seen as paramount in the protection of the Basin’s natural assets and values.
- **Views of WRAP Members:**
  - All WRAP members supported this matter being addressed.
  - There was a mixed response to the use of stronger legislation to force landholders to undertake wild dog control.
  - There was general support for more funding and ongoing funding support from all levels of government to weed and pest control.
  - There was strong support for either a co-ordinated Catchment wide approach or a Basin wide approach to weed and pest control.
  - All WRAP members supported the use of Indigenous (Land and Sea) Rangers in weed and pest management programs.

## Large Scale Mining in and Adjacent to Aquatic Areas:

- **What is the Specific Issue:** A total of 48 views/issues were raised by WRAP members on the potential impacts and management of Large Scale Mining in the Basin. Some 15 of these views/issues related to the process of dealing with mining activities in the Basin, 4 views/issues related to stronger legislative controls on mining, 26 views/issues related to the conditions applied to mining activities, 3 views/issues related to the monitoring and ongoing management of compliance actions and 1 view/issue related to the decision making process for dealing with mining lease applications.
- **What is the WRAP's Position:** Due to the high level of interest in this issue, the responses of WRAP members have been dissected into the Resources sector, Local Government, NRM Groups and AgForce. The Resources sector agreed with 24 and disagreed with 26 of the views/issues being considered.
  - The Local Government sector agreed with 126, disagreed with 21 and did not respond to 10 of the view/issues being considered.
  - The NRM Groups agreed with 276, disagreed with 22, felt that 4 were not applicable and did not respond to 10 of the views/issues being considered.
  - AgForce agreed with 36, disagreed with 10, felt that 5 were not applicable and did not respond to 1 of the views/issues being considered.

This data indicates that there is a significant difference of views between the WRAP members on the best way to deal with mining activities in the Basin.

- **Views of WRAP Members:**

- All WRAP members agreed that the regulation of mining in the Lake Eyre Basin should be rigorous and transparent.
- There was strong support from the NRM Groups for the application of the precautionary principle to mining development in any alternative strategies. This was not supported by the Resources sector.
- There was strong support by the Local Government sector, NRM Groups and AgForce to the impacts of mining being prevented rather than being rehabilitated after an incident has occurred.
- All WRAP members (except NW – Local Government, AgForce and the Resources sector) agreed that the State Coordinator-General should not have the power to override any alternative strategies for the protection of the natural assets and values of the Basin.
- All WRAP members (except the Resources sector) agreed that future changes to the regulatory framework should not reduce river protection from large scale mining.
- The majority of the WRAP members agreed that mining should not be stopped in the Lake Eyre Basin, but a high level of protection should be applied Basin wide.
- The majority of WRAP members agreed that mining should be prohibited in floodplains, major rivers, major tributaries and lakes. The NW – Local Government did not agree with the prohibition of mining on floodplains and the Resources sector did not agree with the prohibition of mining of floodplains and major tributaries.
- All (except NW – Local Government, AgForce and the Resources sector) agreed that conditions should be imposed to preclude some mining activities in "high value" areas.
- All (except NW – Local Government, AgForce and the Resources sector) agreed that open cut mining should be prohibited in "key sensitive areas" and that stronger requirements are applied for other areas.

- All agreed that the Great Artesian Basin recharge areas should be protected from the cumulative effects of mining.
- The Local Government sector, AgForce and the Resources sector disagreed with a standard (minimum of 2 kms) buffer area which prohibited mining being applied along rivers. There were variable views from the NRM Groups.
- All (except NW – Local Government) agreed that mining activity should not be authorised if it has the potential to reduce/interfere with natural flows.
- All (except NW and SW – Local Government and the Resources sector) agreed to the concept of model regulatory mechanisms/conditions being developed that are specific to the Lake Eyre Basin.
- All agreed that the cumulative impacts of mining need to be considered.
- All (except the Resources sector) agreed that mining conditions must include no pollution of the Basin's rivers systems.
- All agreed that mining requirements must include no interference to major rivers, major tributaries and floodplains. The Resources sector felt that mining of floodplains could still occur where there was no impact.
- The Local Government sector and the Resources sector disagreed with the view of stream diversion on mining tenements not being authorised. The NRM Groups and AgForce agreed with this activity \not being authorised.
- All (except AgForce) agreed that natural flows must not be impacted by mining operations.
- All agreed that Cultural Heritage surveys must be conducted prior to any new development.
- All (except AgForce and the Resources sector) agreed that an immediate audit of all existing mines in the Queensland part of the Lake Eyre Basin should be undertaken by the Queensland Government and a public report of the findings released. The focus of this audit is on the ability of existing mines to withstand a 1/100 year rainfall event without discharging pollutants to watercourses.
- All agreed that the Queensland Government should have an appropriate mine spill response strategy.
- All agreed that the Queensland Government needs to undertake appropriate monitoring, compliance and enforcement in relation to mining activities.

## Unconventional/Conventional Petroleum and Gas in and Adjacent to Aquatic Areas and Unconventional Petroleum and Gas in the Broader Basin:

- **What is the Specific Issue:** A total of 30 views/issues were raised by WRAP members on the potential impacts and management of Petroleum and Gas activities in the Basin.
- **What is the WRAP's Position:** Due to the high level of interest in this issue, the responses of WRAP members have been dissected into the Resources sector, Local Government, NRM Groups and AgForce.
  - The Resources sector agreed with 14 and disagreed with 16 of the views/issues being considered.
  - The Local Government sector agreed with 69, disagreed with 16, felt that 1 view/issue was not applicable and did not respond to 4 of the views/issues being considered.
  - The NRM Groups agreed with 166, disagreed with 5, felt that 5 were not applicable and did not respond to 5 of the views/issues being considered.
  - AgForce agreed with 22, disagreed with 5, felt that 1 was not applicable and did not respond to 2 of the views/issues being considered.
- **Views of WRAP Members:**
  - All (except the Resources sector) supported a moratorium being placed on Petroleum and Gas (P&G) development where there is insufficient understanding of the impacts of this industry.
  - All (except NW – Local Government and the Resources sector) agreed that CSG development has to be stringently regulated.
  - All (except the Resources sector) supported a “risk based approach” instead of the current “adaptive management approach” being used to manage the activities of P&G operations.
  - The Local Government and Resources sectors agree that existing (pre Wild Rivers) requirements on P&G operations were sufficient. AgForce and some NRM Groups disagreed with this view.
  - All (except the Resources sector) agree that the cumulative impacts of P&G should not be allowed to occur.
  - The NRM Groups agree that there should be no CSG development in the Lake Eyre Basin. The Local Government sector, AgForce and the Resources sector don't agree with this view.
  - All (except RAPAD, NW – Local Government and the Resources sector) agree that P&G development should be excluded from in-stream areas and well off watercourses. NW – Local Government felt that this issue was not applicable.
  - All (except RAPAD and the Resources sector) support a buffer zone for P&G around rivers and floodplains.
  - All agreed that natural flows must not be impacted by P&G operations.
  - All agreed that P&G development requirements must include no pollution of the river systems and no contamination of the groundwater systems.
  - All agreed that CSG water monitoring requirements must be standardised and transparent.
  - All agreed that compliance monitoring and enforcement of lease conditions for the P&G industry is necessary.
  - All agreed that the results of all water testing for CSG development should be made public.
  - All (except NW – Local Government, AgForce and the Resources sector) agreed that the alternative strategies for the protection of natural assets and values in the Basin should take precedence over P&G Act decisions.
  - All (except RAPAD, NW – Local Government, AgForce and the Resources sector) agreed that decisions made under the alternative strategies for the protection of natural assets and values in the Basin should not be able to be overridden by the Queensland Coordinator-General.

## Major Weirs:

- **What is the Specific Issue:** A total of 14 views/issues were raised by WRAP members on the potential impacts and management of Major Weirs in the Basin.
- **What is the WRAP's Position:** Due to the divergent level of interest in this issue, the responses of WRAP members have been dissected into the Resources sector, Local Government, NRM Groups and AgForce.
  - The Resources sector agreed with 13 and disagreed with 1 of the views/issues being considered.
  - The Local Government sector agreed with 36, disagreed with 5 and did not respond to 1 of the views/issues being considered.
  - The NRM Groups agreed with 70, disagreed with 10 and felt that 4 were not applicable of the views/issues being considered.
  - AgForce agreed with 9 and disagreed with 5 of the views/issues being considered.
- **Views of WRAP Members:**
  - All (except RAPAD and AgForce) agreed that weirs should only be developed for Town Water Supply purposes.
  - RAPAD, AgForce and the Resources sector supported the construction of weirs for industrial development purposes. The remaining WRAP members were not supportive.
  - All agreed that future changes to regulatory frameworks should not reduce river protection in regard to the potential impacts of major weirs.
  - All (except AgForce) agreed that an environmental impact statement should be required for construction of any major weirs.
  - All (except AgForce) agreed that watercourses not listed as "protected watercourses" in current Water Resource Plans should also be protected from major weir development.
  - All (except AgForce and the GDCC) agreed that there should be a limit on the total number of weirs in the Lake Eyre Basin.
  - All (except the CCCC, LEB - SAP and LEB – CAC) agreed that the volumes of unallocated water reserves provided through the Water Resource Plans should be used to limit weir development.
  - All agreed that any approval process for weir should include consideration of downstream impacts and long term river sustainability.
  - All agreed that adequate volumes of water for Town Water Supply should be made available for future population growth.
  - All agreed that any weir development should have a Cultural Heritage clearance under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act.
  - For the purposes of an alternative strategy for the protection of the natural assets and values of the Basin – major weirs are to be considered as weirs larger than those existing in the Basin. This definition was not supported by the Local Government sector, the LEB – SAP and AgForce.

### Small Scale Irrigation Adjacent to Aquatic Areas:

- **What is the Specific Issue:** A total of 37 views/issues were raised by WRAP members on the potential impacts of an expansion of Small Scale Irrigation adjacent to aquatic areas in the Basin.
- **What is the WRAP's Position:** Due to the high level of interest in this issue, the responses of WRAP members have been dissected into the Resources sector, Local Government, NRM Groups and AgForce.
  - The Resources sector did not respond to any of the views/issues being considered.
  - The Local Government sector agreed with 70, disagreed with 31, felt that 1 view/issue was not applicable and did not respond to 8 of the views/issues being considered.
  - The NRM Groups agreed with 172, disagreed with 29, felt that 8 were not applicable and did not respond to 13 of the views/issues being considered.
  - AgForce agreed with 16, disagreed with 20 and felt that 1 was not applicable of the views/issues being considered.
- **Views of WRAP Members:**
  - The WRAP members had a mixed reaction to the suggestion that the 4 large sleeper licences on the Cooper Creek be either retired or brought back by Government.
  - All (except RAPAD, NW – Local Government and AgForce) agreed that there should be no further irrigation development in the Cooper Creek catchment.
  - All (except RAPAD, NW – Local Government and AgForce) agreed to no new irrigation licences in the Lake Eyre Basin.
  - All (except RAPAD and NW – Local Government) agreed that there should be no increase in the reserves of unallocated water for irrigation in the existing Water Resource Plans.
  - All (except NW – Local Government and AgForce) agreed that irrigation should not be authorised if it has the potential to reduce/interfere with natural flows.
  - All agreed that rivers throughout the Lake Eyre Basin must retain their free flowing integrity for the long term.
  - Efforts by the Local Government sector to define “small scale irrigation” as being between 400 & 1600ML of take of water/year were not supported by the NRM Groups or AgForce.
  - All agreed that first run flows should be protected and low flows should be maintained.
  - All agreed that fertilisers from irrigated agriculture should not be allowed to enter the Basin's river systems. NW – Local Government did not respond.
  - The majority of WRAP members agree that overland flow capture should be considered as part of the impacts of water taken for consumptive purposes.
  - The Local Government sector and AgForce agreed that the harvesting of water into storages should be allowed and encouraged. Most of the NRM Groups opposed this view.
  - All (except RAPAD, NW – Local Government and AgForce) opposed the construction of water storages on floodplains.
  - All (except RAPAD, NW – Local Government and AgForce) opposed changes to the current Water Resource Plans to provide additional water for irrigation.
  - All (except RAPAD and AgForce) opposed the potential aggregation of water licences.
  - The Local Government sector, the GDCC and AgForce supported the implementation of an “adaptive trading regime”. The NRM Groups were either silent or were opposed to this matter.



- All (except the CCCC) agreed that any water trading regime should consider modelling of the location and quantity of water that can potentially be taken by existing licences.
- All (except NW – Local Government and AgForce) agreed that if water licences were transferred upstream the volumes of extraction must be reduced and the extraction thresholds must be increased to avoid increasing the take from the river.
- All agreed that the cumulative impacts of irrigation need to be considered in assessing development applications.
- All agreed that maintaining connectivity of flows should be a development requirement for any new irrigation development.

Note – as irrigation is not a Resources sector issue or an area of expertise for the Resource sector representative there was no response to the views/issues considered

### Industrial Development Adjacent to Aquatic Areas:

- **What is the Specific Issue:** A total of 10 views/issues were raised by WRAP members on the potential impacts and management of Industrial Development adjacent to aquatic areas in the Basin.
- **What is the WRAP's Position:** Due to the level of interest in this issue, the responses of WRAP members have been dissected into the Resources sector, Local Government, NRM Groups and AgForce.
  - The Resources sector agreed with 5 and disagreed with 5 of the views/issue being considered.
  - The Local Government sector agreed with 26 and disagreed with 4 of the views/issues being considered.
  - The NRM Groups agreed with 57, felt 1 was not applicable and did not respond to 2 of the views/issues being considered.
  - AgForce agreed with 7 and disagreed with 3 of the views/issues being considered.
- **Views of WRAP Members:**
  - All agreed to risk based approach with intensity of regulation being consistent with the scale of activity as being appropriate.
  - The Local Government sector, AgForce and the Resources sector are opposed to any alternative strategy for protecting the natural assets and values of the Basin reflecting the Wild Rivers approach to the regulation of industrial development. The NRM Groups are supportive of the Wild Rivers approach.
  - All (except NW – Local Government, AgForce and the Resources sector) agree that “aquatic areas” includes floodplains.
  - All agreed that the protection of assets and values from impacts of industrial development should extend to the headwaters of the Lake Eyre Basin catchments.
  - All agreed that Cultural Heritage surveys must be conducted prior to any new industrial development.
  - All agreed that the maintenance of flow connectivity should be included in any industrial development requirements.
  - All (except AgForce and the Resources sector) agreed that authorisations for industrial development should ensure that there are no impacts on flows.

### Large Scale Overland Flow Storages Adjacent to aquatic Areas:

- **What is the Specific Issue:** A total of 9 views/issues were raised by WRAP members on the potential impacts and management of Large Scale Storages adjacent to aquatic areas in the Basin.
- **What is the WRAP's Position:** Due to the varied level of interest in this issue the responses of WRAP members has been dissected into the Resources sector, Local Government, NRM Groups and AgForce.
  - The Resources sector agreed with 6 and disagreed with 3 of the views/issues being considered.
  - The Local Government sector agreed with 22, disagreed with 2 and did not respond to 3 of the views/issues being considered.
  - The NRM Groups agreed with 49, disagreed with 1, felt that 1 was not applicable and did not respond to 3 of the views/issues being considered.
  - AgForce agreed with 3, disagreed with 5 and felt that 1 was not applicable of the views/issues being considered.
- **Views of WRAP Members:**
  - The RAPAD and AgForce support the approval and construction of large overland flow storages in the Basin; NRM groups did not support construction of large overland flow storages.
  - All agreed that overland flow storages for stock and domestic purpose must be permitted.
  - All (except NW – Local Government and AgForce) agreed that overland flow storages on floodplains for industrial purposes should not be permitted.
  - All (except NW – Local Government and AgForce) agreed that large overland flow storages should not be permitted on the Georgina, Diamantina and Cooper floodplains.
  - All agreed that it should be ensured that limitations on the take of overland flow water are effective but LEB – SAP was concerned about whether this was possible.
  - There was some confusion amongst WRAP members as to whether the current Water Resource Plans adequately address impacts from overland developments.
  - All (except AgForce and the Resources sector) support the Wild Rivers Code requirements for overland flow storages being reflected in Water Act Codes to ensure ecological and environmental outcomes are addressed.

### In-Stream Quarry Material Extraction:

- **What is the Specific Issue:** A total of 14 views/issues were raised by WRAP members on the potential impacts and management of In-Stream Extraction of Quarry Materials in the Basin.
- **What is the WRAP's Position:** Due to the level of interest in this issue the responses of WRAP members has been dissected into the Resources sector, Local Government, NRM Groups and AgForce.
  - The Resources sector agreed with 11 and disagreed with 3 of the views/issues being considered.
  - The Local Government sector agreed with 36, disagreed with 5 and did not respond to 1 of the views/issues being considered.
  - The NRM Groups agreed with 68, disagreed with 8, felt that 3 were not applicable and did not respond to 5 of the views/issues being considered.
  - AgForce agreed with 10, disagreed with 3 and did not respond to 1 of the views/issues being considered.

- **Views of WRAP Members:**

- All WRAP members (except the LEB – SAP and CAC) agreed that the current non Wild River requirements in the Water Act, the Sustainable Planning Act and the Environmental Protection Act provide sufficient regulation of this industry.
- All (except the LEB – CAC) agree that sand and gravel extraction from the Lake Eyre Basin rivers should be allowed.
- All agreed that there should be caps on the amount of sand and gravel taken from designated areas.
- All agreed that the regulation of sand and gravel extraction should be based on sustainability of extraction rather than where material can be used.
- The open access to sand and gravel by Local Government was not universally supported. AgForce and some NRM Groups were opposed to this occurring.
- All agreed that Cultural Heritage surveys should be conducted before any new quarry development can commence.
- All agreed that the cumulative impacts of quarrying need to be considered.
- All agreed that monitoring of quarry sites should be required and appropriate rehabilitation requirements included on any quarry authorisation.

#### **Obstruction of Overland Flow by Major Roads Across Floodplains:**

- **What is the Specific Issue:** A total of 3 views/issues were raised by WRAP members on the potential impacts and management of Major Roads across the floodplains obstructing and interfering with overland flows in the Basin.
- **What is the WRAP's Position:** A total of 23 WRAP members responses agreed and 10 disagreed with the views and issues relating to this area.
- **Views of WRAP Members:**
  - The highest level of disagreement with this issue was from the NRM Groups (8 responses). They disagreed with the use of generic regulation to control such development activities and took the position that flows should continue naturally and have connectivity and that road impacts should be addressed on a specific case by case basis.
  - All WRAP members (apart from the Local Government sector, the GDCAG and the Resources sector) agreed that the Main Roads and Local Government standards for road construction in floodplain areas are not appropriate to effectively manage this development activity.
  - The majority of WRAP members agreed that a generic (one size fits all) approach to the management of roads on floodplains is not appropriate.
  - AgForce highlighted that 3 coal rail lines in Central Qld traverse floodplains instead of more suitable higher and harder ridges – so what is the problem in the Basin.

## 9.0 Recommendations

The data gathered through the WRAP process indicates that there is a significant difference of views between the WRAP members on a number of matters. The following recommendations do not necessarily carry the full endorsement of every WRAP member group, however in analysing the stakeholders views on the potential impacts of the issues outlined in Section 8.0 above on the natural assets and values of the Basin, and cognisant of the preceding comments, the WRAP have consensually developed the following recommendations for the Ministers consideration.

**Recommendation 1.0:** That there should be a high degree of integrity and adequate ground-truthing of the spatial mapping of natural assets and areas that are intended to be protected in any future strategy for protecting the natural assets and values of the Basin.

**Recommendation 2.0:** a) That the Minister considers a community consultation program in the Queensland part of the Lake Eyre Basin once he has determined an alternative strategy for the protection of the natural assets and values of the Basin.

b) That the Minister considers extending the term of the WRAP, or a WRAP type process where all the regions stakeholders are engaged as one, to assist in ongoing consultation and communication on the future economic, environmental and social sustainability of the Basin.

**Recommendation 3.0:** That any alternative strategy for the protection of the Basin's natural assets and values should contain clear definitions of terms used – such as major weirs, aquatic areas, protected assets and values, floodplains, sensitive areas etc.

**Recommendation 4.0:** That the Minister considers either a) introducing an amendment to the *Water Act 2000* or the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* or b) introducing a new 'sympathetic' legislative instrument, for e.g. - a Lake Eyre Basin Natural Rivers Act, to provide the necessary protective framework and strategies for the natural assets and values of the Basin. This legislation should be complementary to and consistent with the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement.

**Recommendation 5.0:** In any new alternative strategy for the protection of the natural assets and values of the Western River catchments within the Queensland part of the Lake Eyre Basin, the WRAP recommends that the Minister give consideration to the following mechanisms and principles:

- any alternative strategy should appropriately reflect the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement.
- the regulation of mining in the Lake Eyre Basin in a rigorous and transparent manner.
- that mining should be prohibited in floodplains, major rivers, major tributaries and lakes.
- that open cut mining should be prohibited in "key sensitive areas" and that stronger requirements are applied for other areas.
- that the State Coordinator-General should not have powers to override any alternative strategies for the protection of the natural assets and values of the Basin.
- that the Great Artesian Basin recharge areas should be protected from the cumulative effects of mining.
- that mining activity should not be authorised if it has the potential to reduce/interfere with natural flows.
- that mining requirements must include no interference of flows to major rivers, major tributaries and floodplains. The Resources sector felt that mining of floodplains could still occur where there was no impact.
- the use of a "risk based approach" instead of the current "adaptive management approach" being used to manage the activities of P&G operations.

- that natural flows must not be impacted by P&G operations.
- that P&G development requirements must include no pollution of the river systems and no contamination of the groundwater systems.
- that CSG water monitoring requirements must be standardised and transparent.
- that future changes to regulatory frameworks should not reduce river protection in regard to the potential impacts of major weirs.
- that any approval process for a weir should include consideration of downstream impacts and long term river sustainability.
- that adequate volumes of water for Town Water Supply should be made available for future population growth.
- that there should be limited to nil increase in the reserves of unallocated water for irrigation in the existing Water Resource Plans.
- that irrigation should not be authorised if it has the potential to reduce/interfere with natural flows.
- that overland flow capture should be considered as part of the impacts of water taken for consumptive purposes.
- that rivers throughout the Lake Eyre Basin must retain their free flowing integrity for the long term.
- that low flows and first run flows should be maintained in the Basin's river systems.
- that the cumulative impacts of irrigation need to be considered in development approvals
- that maintaining connectivity of flows should be a development requirement for any new irrigation development.
- that the protection of assets and values from impacts of industrial development should extend to the headwaters of the Lake Eyre Basin catchments.
- that cultural heritage surveys must be conducted prior to any new development being approved.
- that the maintenance of flow connectivity should be included in any industrial development requirements.
- that authorisations for industrial development should ensure that there are no impacts on flows.
- that large overland flow storages should not be permitted on the Georgina, Diamantina and Cooper floodplains.
- that limitations on the take and or interference of overland flow water are effectively applied.
- that the provisions of the Wild Rivers Code requirements for overland flow storages are reflected in Water Act Codes to ensure ecological and environmental outcomes are addressed.
- that sand and gravel extraction from the Lake Eyre Basin rivers should be allowed.
- that there should be caps on the amount of sand and gravel taken from designated areas.
- that the regulation of sand and gravel extraction should be based on sustainability of extraction rather than where material can be used.
- that the adoption of a risk based approach with intensity of regulation being consistent with the scale of activity as being an appropriate way to manage development impacts.

**Recommendation 6.0:** The WRAP recognises the challenges faced by the Queensland Government in achieving a balance between future economic prosperity for the State and Basin and ensuring that the Basin's natural assets and values are not compromised in the process. To achieve this balance, the Minister is encouraged to:

- Adopt a framework that does not allow mining to compromise the Basin's natural assets and the integrity of its rivers/streams, floodplains and the "channel country".
- Adopt a framework that allows mining operations in those areas of the Basin that will not compromise the natural assets and values of the Basin.
- Apply stringent conditions to mining lease holders that ensure that pollutants cannot escape from mining tenements and compromise the integrity of the "organic beef industry".

**Recommendation 7.0:** In regard to "small scale irrigation", the WRAP recognises the diversity of views held by stakeholders and producers within the Basin, and that reaching a consensus view was not possible. However in recognition of fragility and unique natural assets of the Basin, the WRAP takes the view that:-

- there should be no further take over and above that which exists in current water plans for irrigation development in the Cooper Creek catchment and Lake Eyre Basin.
- there should be no increase in the reserves of unallocated water for irrigation in the existing Water Resource Plans for the Basin.
- any future water trading regime in the Basin should consider robust modelling of the location and quantity of water that can potentially be taken by existing licences.
- if water licences in the Basin were to be transferred upstream, the volumes of extraction must be reduced and the extraction thresholds must be increased.

## **10.0 Conclusion:**

In submitting this report for the Minister's consideration, the WRAP would like express its appreciation to the Minister for the establishment of the Panel to provide input into the Queensland Government's policy settings for the Queensland part of the Lake Eyre Basin.

The Panel has a broad range of experience and knowledge in the resource management issues of the Basin and this has been reflected in the robustness of the recommendations tendered to the Minister for his consideration.

Given the level of national media and political interest in the Queensland Government's decisions on the future sustainable use and management of the Basin's natural resources, the WRAP is of the view that it could play a significant part in ongoing consultation and communication processes associated with these decisions. The WRAP encourages the Minister to consider extending its term to assist in these endeavours.

The WRAP would like to express its appreciation to the Minister for the significant level of support provided by his departmental officers during the WRAP process. At all times these officers acted in a highly professional capacity and their support was greatly appreciated.

## 10.0 Attachments

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Attachment A – WRAP Terms of Reference

Attachment B – WRAP Meeting Minutes

Attachment C – DNRM November 2012 Survey

Attachment D – DNRM WRAP Member Prioritised Views Survey

Attachment E – AgForce Supplementary Report

Attachment F – Resources Sector Supplementary Report

## Terms of Reference for the Western Rivers Advisory Panel

### 1. Background

The Charter Letter for the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines contains a first term task to “commence development of alternative strategies to protect Western Rivers, while still allowing sustainable development to proceed, in cooperation with the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection”.

The Cooper Creek, Georgina and Diamantina Rivers, which form Queensland’s portion of the Lake Eyre Basin (LEB) are regarded as Queensland’s “Western Rivers”.

There has been a long history of consultation in the LEB on issues relating to the management of the Western Rivers. The issues raised and views expressed by stakeholders have remained consistent and this history of consultation will be an important part of developing the alternative strategies for protecting the Western Rivers. Significant relationships have been forged with stakeholders groups, and as such, the government acknowledges the need to maintain and strengthen these relationships. Therefore the government has moved to establish a Western Rivers Advisory Panel (WRAP).

These Terms of Reference outline the composition, scope and operations of WRAP.

### 2. Composition of the Western Rivers Advisory Panel (WRAP)

It is planned to establish WRAP comprised of the following stakeholders:

- Local governments
- AgForce Queensland
- Desert Channels Queensland
- Georgina-Diamantina-Cooper Aboriginal Group
- Cooper Creek Catchment Committee
- Georgina-Diamantina Catchment Committee
- the resources sector (mining, gas and petroleum)
- the Lake Eyre Basin – Community Advisory Committee
- the Lake Eyre Basin – Scientific Advisory Panel

Each stakeholder group will have one representative on the WRAP.

Local government representation will include a representative from Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD), a representative from the south-western councils (not part of RAPAD) and a representative from the north-western councils (not part of RAPAD).

When a representative cannot attend a meeting they may send a proxy.



### **3. Forming the WRAP**

The following steps will be followed in establishing WRAP:

1. The Minister will invite representatives of the stakeholder organisations to be on WRAP
2. RAPAD will be engaged to facilitate meetings of WRAP
3. The Minister will appoint and notify the nominees of their appointment
4. RAPAD will notify appointees of the date and venue for the first meeting of WRAP

### **4. Purpose of the WRAP**

WRAP is to provide stakeholder input and views to the Minister and the department on matters pertaining to alternative strategies for protection of the Queensland western rivers.

### **5. Specific Scope of WRAP**

The roles and responsibilities of WRAP include, but are not limited to:

- consideration of policy matters pertaining to the western rivers and provide advice to the Minister/department on these matters
- dissemination of information on the alternative strategies to their respective interest groups and collate and provide feedback to the Minister/department on these matters
- provision of advice and views of their constituents, on the analysis and possible options to address policy and operational issues that may arise from alternative strategies
- consider linkages between the alternative strategies and any relevant water resource plans

The role of WRAP is advisory only and is not directive of the process to progress alternative strategies.

### **6. Government Agencies**

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines, as lead agency, will attend WRAP meetings. Representatives of other government agencies may also be invited to attend WRAP meetings and/or provide information to assist WRAP in its deliberations.

### **7. Conduct of Meetings**

Meetings of WRAP will be conducted as follows:

- The department will engage RAPAD to coordinate the organisation of WRAP meetings and to provide secretarial support services
- The department will reimburse RAPAD for the expenses associated with the provision of these support services

- The first meeting of WRAP is expected to be convened before the end of November 2012
- The department will have officers attend WRAP meetings to provide information/advice on policy, legislative and administrative matters
- It is anticipated that WRAP will need to meet on a number of occasions as development of the alternative strategies is progressed. A preliminary outline of meetings is listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Preliminary list of meetings

<b>Meeting No.</b>	<b>Scope of meeting</b>
1	Inception meeting with Minister – preliminary discussions on alternative strategies.
2	Workshop to develop panel feedback on issues including protection, sustainable development, and options.
3	Meeting to discuss alternative options proposed by the department.
4	Meeting to discuss stakeholder response to options proposed, and to determine preferred options.
5	Meeting to develop preferred option in collaboration with the department.

## **8. Remuneration**

Reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred by WRAP members associated with attending meetings will be met. These expenses include vehicle hire or fuel for vehicle use, economy airfares, accommodation and meals. All remuneration will be in accordance with departmental corporate standards. WRAP members will not be paid a meeting attendance/sitting fee.

## **9. Reporting**

After each meeting, RAPAD will be required to compile a report on the business raised and outcomes from deliberations for the Minister's and department's records and consideration.

# Western Rivers Advisory Panel (WRAP) MINUTES, 22 November 2012

**Meeting:**

WRAP

**Day / Date / Time:**

Thursday 22 November 2012, 8.10am – 12.05pm

**Venue:**

RAPAD Skilling Training room, 128 Pelican St, Longreach

**WRAP members:**

Cr Julie Groves, Cr Bill Bode, Cr Stuart McKenzie, Peter Douglas, John te Kloot, Judith Harrison, Angus Emmott, Richard Kingsford, Rob Jansen, Trevor Whitelaw

**DNRM representatives:**

Minister Andrew Cripps, Sue Ryan, Jane Patterson, Andrew Freeman, Terry Boyle, Lana Bartholomew, Darren Moor Tahna Jackson

**Proxies:**

D. Arnold, S.Graham

**RAPAD (Secretariat):**

Noni Rutherford & Kelmeny Fraser (Media)

**Apologies:**

Gerry Fogarty

**1. Welcome; Apologies, Proxies**

1.1	8.10am David Arnold welcomed and opened meeting	Darren Moor – Welcome to Country and Introduction of Minister Cripps
1.2	<i>Apology – Gerry Fogarty's apology was noted</i>	

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

NA

**3. Business Arising From Previous Minutes**

<i>Details of Discussion</i>		
	<i>Resolution / Action</i>	<i>Responsible Officer</i>
NA		

4. Standing Business Items			
	Details of Discussion	Resolution / Action	Responsible Officer
	NA		

5. New Business			
	Details of Discussion	Resolution / Action	Responsible Officer
5.1	<p><b>Minister Andrew Cripps</b> addressed the meeting and outlined the role of the WRAP and his views in relation to Western Rivers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government does not support wild river declarations for the Cooper and Georgina/Diamantina Basins</li> <li>• Government will develop an alternative framework for protection of these western rivers</li> <li>• Wild river declarations will not be withdrawn until an alternative framework is ready to be implemented</li> <li>• WRAP is to focus on building a new framework</li> <li>• The future framework may include non-regulatory options and partnerships</li> <li>• This is genuine consultation –no alternative framework has been developed at this point</li> <li>• Would like the community to have an open mind to the sustainable development of resources in the region</li> <li>• Would like the community to have open mind on the potential for “small scale” irrigation in the region.</li> <li>• Clarified that this was not a discussion about “large scale” irrigation but was limited to consideration of the issues surrounding “small scale” irrigation</li> <li>• Role of WRAP is to assist the Government by providing advice on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Values to be protected and where protection should be focussed</li> <li>○ Risks</li> <li>○ Options for alternative strategies</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>➤ The Minister invited questions from the members and asked members to come back to him with answers and options for</p>		

<b>5. New Business</b>		<b>Resolution / Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	<p><b>Details of Discussion</b></p> <p>alternative strategies around March 2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There was considerable discussion on irrigation, mining, development opportunities, pests and weeds.</li> </ul>			
<b>Morning tea</b>				
<b>5.3</b>	<p><b>Discussion of WRAP protocols</b></p> <p><b>Chairperson; Communication, media and meeting protocols</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No Chairperson</li> <li>➤ The members opted to amend the existing LEBWRAP protocol for use for the WRAP</li> <li>➤ GM to act as secretariat and facilitator under contract from DNRM</li> <li>➤ Members reviewed the WRAP draft terms of reference</li> <li>➤ Darren Moor, Terry Boyle and Lana Bartholomew spoke to a power point presentation</li> <li>➤ Darren and Lana outlined the department's (DNRM) process for developing the alternative strategies</li> <li>➤ Terry ran through some slides outlining the implications of wild river declaration removal, with more specific information on Mining, Petroleum and Irrigation</li> <li>➤ Lana, Darren and Terry then outlined the types of information DNRM was seeking from WRAP such as what are the values to be protected, where protection should apply and what are the risks to the river systems</li> <li>➤ Key points discussed between DNRM and WRAP members were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What does the WRAP want to protect and how can this best be achieved?</li> <li>○ Were levels of protection in wild river declarations adequate or inadequate?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: Secretariat to amend protocol and forward to members and DNRM</b></p> <p><b>Action: All content with ToR of WRAP Secretariat to forward draft ToR</b></p> <p><b>Action: Secretariat to forward pp</b></p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p>	<p>Week of 26 Nov</p> <p>Week of 26<sup>th</sup> Nov</p> <p>Week of 26<sup>th</sup> Nov</p>

5. New Business	Details of Discussion	Resolution / Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe
	<p><b>5. New Business</b></p> <p><b>Details of Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If you takeaway existing declarations that does not mean there is no protection, other existing legislation still applies.</li> <li>○ What tool do we use to manage the river system?</li> <li>○ What are the existing pieces of legislation that still apply?</li> <li>○ Are there still protections from mining issues if wild river declarations removed?</li> <li>○ Scope of Government's request for initial feedback.</li> <li>➤ Some views, issues and concerns raised by WRAP members included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wild Rivers overrode other legislation</li> <li>○ If High Preservation Area's were removed, what would this mean?</li> <li>○ Every 10 years more water is taken out of rivers – think about accumulative effect</li> <li>○ Mining operators would not consider the Wild Rivers Framework first – they would first apply the more stringent and comprehensive requirements of the Environmental Protection Act, Water Act &amp; Petroleum Act</li> <li>○ Potential implications of wild river removal on cropping and irrigation</li> <li>○ Water resource plan to remain re. changes to Water Act re water allocation</li> <li>○ Has there been a scientific study to say what water is available for allocation without impacting the rivers?</li> <li>○ Gravel take needs to be better managed</li> <li>○ River protection: did framework of existing legislation provide adequate protection for the rivers? Need to review existing legislation and look for weaknesses</li> <li>○ What are the values in need of protection – economic, social and environmental</li> <li>○ Minister wants feedback on pressure points</li> <li>○ Is Statutory Regional Planning the way to go?</li> <li>○ People need to know a lot more about the gaps</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ There was agreement that negotiation will have to occur between all members.</li> <li>➤ Agreement that the political landscape has changed</li> <li>➤ Agreement that all accept the terms of reference</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: DNRM to provide explanation of gaps in Wild Rivers legislation and other legislation</b></p>	<p>DNRM</p>	

<b>5. New Business</b>			
<i>Details of Discussion</i>	<i>Resolution / Action</i>	<i>Responsible Officer</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Agreement that the Minister and or department do not have alternative strategies already drafted but members welcome opinions on alternative strategies from department</li> <li>➤ Agreement to conduct teleconferences for providing information and coming together for negotiations and discussions.</li> </ul>			

<b>6. For Information and Noting</b>			
<i>Details of Discussion</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible Officer</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
NA			

<b>7. Next Meeting</b>	
➤ Teleconference – Date TBA in mid January 2013, plan for face to face meeting in mid-February 2013	

<b>8. Meeting Closed</b>	
Meeting closed: 12.05pm	





<b>4. Standing Business Items</b>			
	<i>Details of Discussion</i>	<i>Resolution / Action</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
			<i>Responsible Officer</i>
	NA		
<b>5. New Business</b>			
	<i>Details of Discussion</i>	<i>Resolution / Action</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
			<i>Responsible Officer</i>
<b>5.1</b>	<p>Darren Moor outlined the questionnaire and thanked all for commitment to completing</p> <p>Questionnaire results</p> <p>Terry outlined questionnaire process and Gordon Moss outlined the survey results and how to interpret them</p> <p>Referring to the questionnaire summary document the major points which need further discussion by WRAP were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ <i>River connectivity</i></li> <li>➢ <i>The 'term' channel country</i></li> <li>➢ <i>Headwaters</i></li> <li>➢ <i>Unconventional petroleum / gas in the broader basin</i></li> <li>➢ <i>Small instream quarry</i></li> </ul> <p>Terry outlined that the results represent trends rather than exact results, and that these trends bought to focus issues for the next step</p> <p>Terry talked on the approach to identify the most important to the least important; how can / does legislation address these important issues and asked if this suited the panel</p> <p>There was discussion on CSG and its interpretation from an asset perspective. Several members noted similar concerns on other 'assets'</p> <p>Artesian Springs caused discussion about their relevance / importance</p>	<p><i>Terms for discussion / clarification at next meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>River connectivity,</i></li> <li>• <i>Term - Channel Countr,</i></li> <li>• <i>Headwaters,</i></li> <li>• <i>Unconventional P/G in the broader basin,</i></li> <li>• <i>Small instream quarry</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Action from DNRW: List of assets and development threats to be dealt with. Members to seek feedback from their respective groups on these</i></p>	DNRW
			Before end January

<b>5. New Business</b>				
	<b>Details of Discussion</b>	<b>Resolution / Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	<p>There was much discussion on 'small scale irrigation'. Issues discussed were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Economics - areas, value add,</li> <li>➤ Existing allocation and usage,</li> <li>➤ How does current policy address existing use (e.g. sleeper licences, unused allocations)</li> <li>➤ Does the subject relate to river / system water or GAB or both – needs clarity</li> <li>➤ How much flow would stop if X amount was allocated?</li> <li>➤ Does the WRP need amending ?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: Small scale irrigation (SSI) requires further discussion. DNRW to provided further information about the:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economics of SSI,</li> <li>• How does the WRP address it / water allocation,</li> <li>• Clarity on which water (bore / river) is WRAP addressing</li> </ul>	DNRW	

<b>6. For Information and Noting</b>					
	<b>Details of Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
	NA				

<b>7. Next Meeting</b>	
➤	18,19 February 2013

<b>8. Meeting Closed</b>	
	Meeting closed: 10.25am

# Western Rivers Advisory Panel (WRAP) MINUTES, 18 and 19 February 2013

**Meeting:** Western Rivers Advisory Panel Meeting 2: Day 1  
**Day / Date / Time:** Monday 18 February @12.30pm – 5:15pm  
**Venue:** RAPAD Skilling Training room, 28 Pelican St, Longreach  
**WRAP members:** Cr Julie Groves, Cr Bill Bode, Cr Stuart McKenzie, John te Kloot, Judith Harrison, Richard Kingsford, Rob Jansen, Trevor Whitelaw  
**DNRM representatives:** Terry Boyle, Lana Bartholomew, Gordon Moss, Daniel Larson, Darren Moor  
**Proxies:**  
**RAPAD (Secretariat):** D. Arnold, K Arnold  
**Guests:**  
**Apologies:** Gerry Fogarty, Peter Douglas, Angus Emmott

<b>1. Welcome; Apologies, Proxies</b>	
1.1	12.33pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Arnold welcomed and opened meeting</li> <li>• Terry Boyle acknowledged Traditional Owners</li> <li>• Darren Moor outlined expectations of two day meeting</li> </ul>
1.2	<i>Apologies were noted from Gerry Fogarty, Peter Douglas and Angus Emmott. It was noted that Angus and Gerry were unable to attend due to flooding while Peter was unable to attend due to illness</i>

<b>2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes</b>	
<i>Resolution: The minutes from the November 22, 2012 meeting and January 23, 2013 meetings are true and accurate records All in agreement</i>	

<b>3. Business Arising From Previous Minutes</b>	
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	<i>Details of Discussion</i>	<i>Resolution / Action</i>	<i>Responsible Officer</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
3.1	Minister acknowledged 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting minutes and associated secretariat reporting correspondence	NA	RAPAD	3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2013
3.2	22 Nov Action: Secretariat to amend protocol and forward to members and DNRM	Action completed	RAPAD	Complete
3.3	22 Nov Action: All content with ToR of WRAP Secretariat to forward draft ToR	Action completed	RAPAD	Complete
3.4	22 Nov Action: Secretariat to forward power point presentation	Action completed	RAPAD	Complete
3.5	22 Nov Action: DNRM to provide explanation of gaps in Wild Rivers legislation and other legislation	Action completed	DNRM	Ongoing
3.6	23 Jan Action from DNRW: List of assets and development threats to be dealt with. Members to seek feedback from their respective groups on these	Action completed	DNRM	Ongoing
3.7	23 Jan Action: Small scale irrigation (SSI) requires further discussion. DNRW to provide further information about the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimated production and consumption levels relating to fodder</li> <li>• How does the WRP address it / water allocation</li> <li>• Clarity on which water (bore / river) is WRAP addressing</li> <li>• Estimates of stock and domestic water take</li> <li>• Modelled flows based on water extraction</li> </ul>	Action completed	DNRM	Ongoing

<b>4. Standing Business Items</b>				
	<i>Details of Discussion</i>	<i>Resolution / Action</i>	<i>Responsible Officer</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>

<b>5. New Business</b>				
	<i>Key Discussion Points</i>	<i>Resolution / Action</i>	<i>Responsible Officer</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>

<b>5. New Business</b>		<b>Key Discussion Points</b>	<b>Resolution / Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<p><b>Oil Shale Announcement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darren Moor provided information about recent government announcements regarding oil shale. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Minister's Cripps and Powell announced demonstration plant expansion at Gladstone. Had provided sufficient evidence that process met legislative requirements. The McFarlane deposit – moratorium remains in place.</li> <li>◦ When considering the type of activity involved in oil shale extraction, it is similar to large scale open cut mining.</li> <li>◦ Suggested that in this part of the world "watch this space".</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Identified deposits in the Lake Eyre Basin appear confined to small areas in the North East of the Basin.</li> <li>• General discussion regarding issues around mine voids capturing water (as recently featured on "background briefing") and over burden.</li> </ul>	<p><b>No further action by WRAP</b></p>			
<b>5.2</b>	<p><b>Wrap up of survey results</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DNRM provided a brief wrap up of the survey results and noted again the importance of considering the additional comments submitted by panel members with their survey responses. Suggested that this agenda item was to provide an opportunity for the panel to discuss comments raised and to raise any additional comments regarding survey results.</li> <li>• R. Kingsford suggested some terms used in the survey need/ed to be defined eg "major" (weirs), "adjacent" (to riparian areas), "small" (scale irrigation). Also suggested hydrological definitions should underpin terms such as "floodplains". In the Lake Eyre Basin riparian areas extend out from narrow lines next to watercourses and "regional ecosystem mapping" could be used to define aquatic areas etc. Need to be aware that impacts associated with development may be "longitudinal and lateral".</li> <li>• DNRM noted that outstanding responses to questions raised during the teleconference were provided in the package of information for panel members consideration prior to the meeting.</li> </ul>				
<b>5.3</b>	<p><b>Major Issues of Concern To WRAP (from Survey): Weeds and Pests</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by DNRM</li> <li>• Key discussion points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Qn: Money provided by Government for weed and pest control? DNRM Response: Some information in paper provided to WRAP. \$11m provided in 2011 to NRM groups.</li> <li>◦ Local Governments have ability but money not made available to assist &amp; enforce Pest Act.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>DNRM to contact EHP to arrange information session (teleconference) about roll out of land and Sea Rangers in Lake Eyre Basin.</b></p>			

5. New Business	Key Discussion Points	Resolution / Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prohibitive cost of poisons</li> <li>○ Wild River requirements relating to pest control notice- Under Land Protection Act, can issue pest control notice for class 3 in a wild river area</li> <li>○ Discussion around powers of Local Government to issue weed and pests notices (generally class 1 and 2 pests under Pest Management Act (<i>Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route) Management Act 2002</i>).</li> <li>○ Role of Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers program - Under Wild Rivers would Land and Sea Rangers only work on Wild Rivers issues or is it broader.</li> <li>○ The Indigenous (Land and Sea) Rangers program is supported, subject to review, as a resource towards pest and weeds and illegal fishing.</li> <li>○ Wild Rivers hindered pest and weed due to limitation of access.</li> <li>○ Pest and weed control needs to be addressed strategically top of catchment down</li> <li>○ Control activities need to be undertaken in a catchment context.</li> <li>○ Support from federal, state and local government and all stakeholders including industry is important for pest and weed control.</li> <li>○ Local Governments should be involved in a basin wide approach to weed and pest activities.</li> <li>○ Continued funding is important.</li> <li>○ The problem is outside of the scope of this process.</li> <li>○ Role and funding of Central West Pest Management Group - concentrated resources to ensure targeted and strategic plan to address pests as pests and weeds coming down river are major issue.</li> </ul>			
5.4	<p><b>Major Issues of Concern To WRAP (from Survey): Major Weirs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Presentation by DNRM</li> <li>● Key discussion points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Concerns about structures in stream as would limit river natural flow.</li> <li>○ What is considered a “major” weir? In relation to WRAP concerns, “major weirs” are weirs larger than those currently place in the Lake Eyre Basin (ie supplying town water supply).</li> <li>○ Impacts allied with issue of “take”. Includes in-stream impacts.</li> <li>○ Qn: Difference between a dam and a weir? DNRM Response: Weir is constructed within the banks of a watercourse, whereas dams can go higher than banks.</li> <li>○ “Protection” should include watercourses in addition to those listed as “protected watercourses” in current water resource plans.</li> <li>○ Qn: Are changes to existing water resource plans a possibility. DNRM Response: Minister indicated that it depends on advice from panel especially around irrigation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>DNRM to provide information regarding when a major weir would trigger EIS assessment.</b></p>		

5. New Business		Key Discussion Points	Resolution / Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Limitations on take of OLF water through limiting the size of the works may not be effective as greater volumes can be taken over time due to water use and continued inflows.</li> <li>○ Measuring the volume of water taken by OLF structures over time can be a problem.</li> <li>● DNRM response: DNRM is doing significant work in metering overland flow.</li> <li>○ There is potential for small scale to become large scale over time.</li> <li>○ Discussion around: How Water Resource Plans and Wild River Declarations regulate overland flow structures including which structures are prohibited where and conditions around self-assessable vs assessable; Water Act Codes vs Wild Rivers Code.</li> <li>○ The Water Resource Plans do not currently adequately address OLF.</li> <li>○ Requirements in the Wild Rivers Code could be reflected in applicable Water Act Codes to ensure ecological/environmental outcomes are addressed.</li> <li>○ There should be no provision for OLF structures on floodplains in the Georgina and Diamantina Basins.</li> </ul>			
5.6	<p><b>Major Issues of Concern To WRAP (from Survey): Obstruction by major roads across floodplains</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Presentation by DNRM</li> <li>● Key discussion points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Interference” not “take” of OLF therefore not regulated by water resource plans.</li> <li>○ Main Roads process/technical guidelines ensure environmental aspects related to overland flow are addressed – these are sufficient.</li> <li>○ Regulation should not occur on a generic basis across a whole floodplain and it should be recognised that sometimes it is more appropriate to construct roads at ground level and other times construction of raised roads is more appropriate.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>				
5.7	<p><b>Major Issues of Concern To WRAP (from Survey): In-stream Quarry Material Extraction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Presentation by DNRM</li> <li>● Key discussion points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If 1000 tonnes per annum or less is taken, assessed under Water Act only. Also assessed as an “ERA” if over 1000 tonnes; Licences usually issued for 5 yrs; Extraction areas do not overlap (Qns around cumulative impacts).</li> <li>○ Compliance with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act may be an issue- a review is needed with a view to stronger regulation or compliance.</li> <li>○ Qn: What is the availability of gravel outside of watercourses? - Most extraction for road</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>DNRM to provide numbers of existing in-stream quarry sites (permits) in LEB</b></p> <p><b>DNRM to investigate if “Key Resource Areas” in Statutory DNRM to check if</b></p>			

5. New Business		Key Discussion Points	Resolution / Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ material in LEB is offstream as this is generally more suitable (from borrow pits).</li> <li>○ Qn: What is the scale of activity in the LEB? Relatively small, demand for instream material is mainly used for home building not road base- so demand for in-stream material is not high in the LEB compared to coastal areas.</li> <li>○ Qn: Is in-stream extraction seen as a serious environmental issue? Depends on scale. Can be locally intense. Most extraction is from areas of accumulation ie bars and benches.</li> <li>○ Replenishment is an issue where larger volumes are taken. In-stream supply needs to replenish before area can be quarried again.</li> <li>○ Monitoring, maintaining water quality and rehabilitation are important. DNRM response: for large scale activity these issues should be dealt with through the ERA approval and conditioning process.</li> <li>○ Cumulative impacts need to be considered.</li> <li>○ Access to quarry material at the site of use should be ensured.</li> <li>○ In-Stream quarries likely to also be addressed in local government plans.</li> <li>○ Qn: Could the statutory regional planning process deal with issues associated with in-stream quarrying - do "Key Resource Areas" identified in statutory plans include in-stream quarries?</li> <li>○ The (non wild rivers) processes currently occurring through the Water Act, Sustainable Planning Act, Environmental Protection Act etc provide sufficient regulation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>"key resource areas" in Regional Plans include in-stream quarrying</b></p>			
5.8	<p><b>Major Issues of Concern To WRAP (from Survey): Industrial Development adjacent to aquatic areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Presentation by DNRM</li> <li>● Key discussion points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Do "aquatic areas" (as identified in survey) encompass floodplains?</li> <li>○ Qn: Which ERAs are devolved to Local Government?</li> <li>○ Should be a "high bar" for ERAs that involve contaminants.</li> <li>○ Should be no risk of river pollution (non negotiable) or impacts on flow (non negotiable).</li> <li>○ Need to recognise importance of organic beef production.</li> <li>○ Importance of river connectivity.</li> <li>○ Approach should be risk based - regulation should be consistent with the scale of the activity.</li> <li>○ Importance of a catchment - wide approach.</li> <li>○ Effectiveness of Environmental Protection Act in achieving goals and how "scale factors" are dealt with?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>DNRM to provide WRAP with list of ERAs devolved to local governments</b></p>			



<b>5. New Business</b>				
	<b>Key Discussion Points</b>	<b>Resolution / Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<b>5.9</b>	<p>All above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Brief discussion of wild rivers requirements.</li> <li>○ Points already raised are reasonably secondary to the upcoming issues on agenda ie mining.</li> <li>○ Weeds and pests are items which land holders deal with but mining etc is potentially more “adversarial”.</li> </ul> <p>Note: agreed to extend length of day 2 agenda as Mining and Petroleum and Gas not discussed as per day 1 agenda</p>			

**Meeting:** Western Rivers Advisory Panel Meeting 2: Day 2  
**Day / Date / Time:** Tuesday 19 February @8.00am – 13:05pm  
**Venue:** RAPAD Skilling Training room, 28 Pelican St, Longreach  
**WRAP members:** Cr Julie Groves, Cr Bill Bode, Cr Stuart McKenzie, John te Kloot, Judith Harrison, Richard Kingsford, Rob Jansen, Trevor Whitelaw  
**DNRM representatives:** Terry Boyle, Lana Bartholomew, Darren Moor, Daniel Larsen, Gordon Moss  
**Proxies:**  
**RAPAD (Secretariat):** D. Arnold  
**Guests:**  
**Apologies:** Gerry Fogarty, Peter Douglas, Angus Emmott

5. New Business				
	Key Discussion Points	Resolution / Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe
5.10	<p><b>Lake Eyre Basin Under the Spotlight</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DNRM seeking advice of WRAP as to whether DNRM should be involved.</li> <li>• Forum is an open forum and not specifically invitation based.</li> <li>• R. Kingsford noted it's basis is for broad group of people to talk about the rivers. His view is that government representatives should be there.</li> <li>• Attendance of hydrologists (yes): "basin wide" knowledge of speakers (some yes some no) and value of conference (?).</li> <li>• WRAP members attending - Trevor, John, Richard, Bill, David perhaps Julie.</li> </ul> <p>D. Moor will be attending LEBCAC meeting in Adelaide.</p>			
5.11	<p><b>Coopers Ck Protection Group (CCPG) 'Widorah meeting' correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter sent to secretariat to be tabled at meeting.</li> <li>• S. McKenzie noted the statement re 'strong support for LEB policy' was incorrect.</li> <li>• J. te Kloot provided feedback of the letter's major points.</li> <li>• General discussion points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consultation is being addressed by the WRAP.</li> <li>○ CCPG is not representative of region wide views but those views would be taken on board.</li> <li>○ CCPG Widorah meeting was not widely advertised.</li> <li>○ Correspondence had been provided to a WRAP member in opposition to the meeting</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: Secretariat to write to CCPG thanking for the letter and looked forward to them working with WRAP in developing alternative strategies to WR</b></p>	Secretariat	Immediate

5. New Business			
	Key Discussion Points	Resolution / Action	Responsible Officer
	communiqué.		
5.12	<p><b>Major Issues of Concern To WRAP (from Survey): Large Scale Mining in and adjacent to aquatic areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted by DNRM- Some concerns expressed that the background paper provided to WRAP members before Christmas did not make it clear that only a small percentage of exploration activities develop to the production stage.</li> <li>• DNRM presentation</li> <li>• Key discussion points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Environmental legislation is undergoing revision with a view to streamlining and red tape reduction red-tape reduction. <i>Environmental Protection (Greentape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2012</i> passed but not yet applicable. Other legislation in process to streamline processes for smaller scale operations- not necessarily relevant to discussions about large scale mining.</li> <li>○ Concerns about uncertainty around way forward as WRAP advice is predicated on understanding of existing legislation – what is chance of changes affecting / unravelling advice WRAP provides.</li> <li>○ EIS triggers included as attachment in mining paper have been revised- new triggers discussed. Revised triggers to be provided by DNRM.</li> <li>○ Qn: re size of tenements and number of mining activity in one tenement. DNRM Response: The Environmental Authority may apply to multiple tenements. Production tenements will not overlap.</li> <li>○ Qn: Who monitors tailings dam?- DNRM Response: Environment and Heritage Protection- part of requirements on Environmental Authority</li> <li>○ Mechanisms/conditions specific to the Lake Eyre Basin are needed.</li> <li>○ Biggest change from wild rivers is removal/amendment of prohibition on surface mining in major waterways and floodplain areas.</li> <li>○ Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives could be developed for the Lake Eyre Basin.</li> <li>○ Regulation of mining in the Lake Eyre Basin should be rigorous and transparent.</li> <li>○ Relevant considerations in guidelines etc are OK but the community need to be able to see and understand the rules applied to mining operations.</li> <li>○ Utilising the wild river high preservation area/ special floodplain management area (or other clear mapped areas??) to apply requirements (ie no mining) may provide clarity (people in the community do understand the way mining is limited in these areas under the wild rivers scheme). How well known are terms around flood plains, watercourses,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: REVISED attachment to be sent out regarding triggers for EIS</b></p>	

5. New Business	Key Discussion Points	Resolution / Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe
	<p>riverine areas, HPA and SFMA?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential to include rivers and floodplains as “Category A” environmentally sensitive areas (people are looking for “Category A style protection (no mining in area)”. Category A areas are National Parks and therefore more limiting than preferred outcome. Could HPA be listed as “Cat B”? Most area already listed as areas of ecological significance. These are “Category C” (extra conditions may be included on authority by other agencies). Perhaps a “LEB specific Category D” area is appropriate?</li> <li>○ Guidelines/criteria are already strong/ diligent. Mining industry doesn’t mind specific ‘criteria’ but not blanket ban (T. Whitelaw).</li> <li>○ Blanket bans not appropriate- a range of particular/specific criteria should apply instead.</li> <li>○ Practicality issues limit mining in floodplains. (Does happen elsewhere in the State).</li> <li>○ EP Act may allow for mining on floodplains but Water Act may limit mining through water availability and requirements relating to instream interference (Water Resource Plan Plans include limitations on interference in protected watercourses).</li> <li>○ Requirements should include no pollution of the river systems or instream interference.</li> <li>○ Assessment should occur on a site specific (case by case) basis rather than applying prohibitions in particular areas.</li> <li>○ Mining should not be stopped but a high level of protection should apply LEB wide.</li> <li>○ There should not be any prohibition of mining at the extremities of the floodplain.</li> <li>○ Development of specific “model conditions”.</li> <li>○ Framework should include specific consideration of cumulative impacts of mining.</li> <li>○ Approach should be “over cautious”.</li> <li>○ Local governments should be involved in setting conditions.</li> <li>○ Regulation should occur on a catchment basis.</li> <li>○ Use of statutory regional planning process if possible to apply conditions.</li> </ul>			
5.13	<p><b>Major Issues of Concern To WRAP (from Survey): Unconventional Petroleum and Gas in and adjacent to aquatic areas and in the broader basin, and Conventional Petroleum and Gas (P&amp;G) in and adjacent to aquatic areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● DNRM presentation</li> <li>● Noted by DRNM- Updated to EIS trigger criteria to be sent out to panel.</li> <li>● Key discussion points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Preservation of groundwater. Pre-mapping/ modelling of groundwater systems in the LEB.</li> <li>○ Need for specifications for CSG bores to be consistent with specifications for water bores.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

<b>5. New Business</b>				
	<b>Key Discussion Points</b>	<b>Resolution / Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consideration of co-produced water on riverine ecosystems in the approval processes.</li> <li>○ Existing (pre wild rivers) requirements on operations are sufficient (activities were already limited through their environmental authorities (“limited petroleum activities”)).</li> <li>○ Beneficial use of water - interaction with ecology/environment needs to be understood; rejection of “lower quality water”. Evaporation dams very last resort.</li> <li>○ Early engagement with Gas Fields Commission.</li> <li>○ The principles applicable to mining should apply broadly to P&amp;G; no pollution etc.</li> <li>○ Although impact is not as great an impact as large scale mining it is important to ensure requirements are rigorous and sufficient.</li> <li>○ Conventional P&amp;G operations of less concern than unconventional operations.</li> <li>○ Conventional P&amp;G uses little water compared to CSG.</li> </ul>			
<b>5.14</b>	<p><b>Proposed Amendments to Lake Eyre Basin Declarations (Dept Environment and Heritage Protection)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Minister Powell asked for tabling at meeting of the proposed amendments to the Cooper Creek and Georgina Diamantina wild river declarations.</li> <li>● Amendments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Temporary camps – Increase from 30 to 60 people and up to hectare in size.</li> <li>○ Multi walled sites – originally 3 ha proposed 5 ha.</li> <li>○ Pipelines that can traverse HPA SFPMA to take product/waste away.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Further clarification (T. Whitelaw): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase of camp size reduces the amount of constant traffic on roads and therefore reduction in width.</li> <li>○ Other aspects which have been addressed and changed have also reduced the amount of disturbance occurring compared to that would which would have occurred under previously regulations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<b>5.15</b>	<p><b>Feedback on Existing Frameworks from absent panel members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Issue was raised as how to integrate input and advice from panel members unable to attend meeting.</li> <li>● D Moor suggested he may be in Longreach to attend upcoming conference and could speak with absent members at that time.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DNRM to ensure opportunity provided for integration of advice from panel members unable to attend due to flooding and illness</b></p>		
<b>5.16</b>	<p><b>Small Scale Irrigation</b></p>	<p><b>DNRM to provide</b></p>		

5. New Business	Key Discussion Points	Resolution / Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by DRNM, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cooper Creek Water Resource Plan</li> <li>○ Georgina Diamantina Water Resource Plan</li> <li>○ Great Artesian Basin Water Resource Plan</li> <li>○ Questionnaire – WRAP members advice and comments</li> <li>○ Questions raised at teleconference in January.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Key discussion points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Some support some oppose.</li> <li>○ Under Wild Rivers new irrigation was prohibited in HPA and SFPMA.</li> <li>○ Modelling is fairly inaccurate (more accurate around gauging stations).</li> <li>○ More scientific evidence is needed.</li> <li>○ There should be no increase in the unallocated water reserves set out in existing water resource plans (no additional take of water than currently provided for).</li> <li>○ There should be an assessment of implementation at different sites in terms of impacts on hydrology and ecology, and on cultural and economic factors.</li> <li>○ Consideration should be given to the capture of overland flow water (resulting from levees etc) that is additional to volumes of water extracted from watercourses.</li> <li>○ Water storage should be provided for if irrigation is allowed/ encouraged (not viable without it).</li> <li>○ Maintain low flow – no storage.</li> <li>○ No water storages should be allowed on floodplains.</li> <li>○ Any “new” water licences for irrigation should be limited to a maximum of 1600ML (licence – tied to land), with volumes above this not considered relevant to discussions about “small scale” irrigation. Must be economically viable.</li> <li>○ Would 8 areas of irrigation @ 1600ML result in severe environmental impacts. May be some local impacts but overall limited – long term effect may be greater.</li> <li>○ Hypothetical – regulation would be on size of licence – what is to stop individual from buying 8 licences. Issues around problems associated with aggregating licences should be considered.</li> <li>○ Any irrigation licence would have to attach to parcels of land greater than 100ha.</li> <li>○ If licences are to be tradeable it should not be possible for these to be bought up for conservation purposes.</li> <li>○ Rivers must retain free flowing integrity long term.</li> <li>○ Any consideration of a trading regime” should consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The existing licences have been modelled with reference to their location on the river system- ie due to differing water supply reliability, an allocation in the lower</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><i>rigor around principals/details and come back to WRAP with model/proposal [Flood plain and off flood plain]</i></p>		

5. New Business	Key Discussion Points	Resolution / Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe
	<p>end of the system provides for different opportunities to take that water compared to a similar allocation higher up the system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For example the opportunity to take a particular volume in the lower system occurs once every 10 years, whereas the opportunity to take a particular volume in the upper part of the system occurs every 2 years, then effectively the “same” allocation provides for 5 times as much water to be extracted at the upper end of the system than from the lower part of the system.</li> <li>▪ The “high flow commence to pump” conditions on existing water licences for irrigation in the Cooper further decreases opportunities to take water on a yearly basis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Any trading rules would need to be adaptive.</li> <li>○ Free flow should be maintained throughout the catchments (not just QLD).</li> <li>○ Any proposal should not impact on the river systems.</li> <li>○ The rights of existing water licences must be recognised.</li> <li>○ A reserve of water available for irrigation should be kept for distribution as “small parcels”.</li> <li>○ Low flows should be maintained.</li> <li>○ First run flows should be protected.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
5.17	<p><b>Progression process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next face to face meeting 18/19 March</li> <li>• No teleconference</li> <li>• Catch up for those not able to attend this meeting [potentially next week at conference if DM is out]</li> <li>• Have teleconference with DNRM re: Land and Sea Rangers</li> </ul>			
<p><b>6. Next Meeting</b></p> <p>➤ March 18,19</p>				
<p><b>7. Meeting Closed</b></p> <p>Meeting closed: 13.05pm</p>				

# Western Rivers Advisory Panel (WRAP) MINUTES, 18 and 19 March 2013

**Meeting:** Western Rivers Advisory Panel Meeting 4: Day 1  
**Day / Date / Time:** Monday 18 March @ 9.00am  
**Venue:** RAPAD Skilling Training room, 28 Pelican St, Longreach  
**WRAP members:** Cr Julie Groves, Cr Bill Bode, Cr Stuart McKenzie, John te Kloot, Richard Kingsford (T/C), Rob Jansen, Trevor Whitelaw, Gerry Fogarty, Peter Douglas, Angus Emmott  
**DNRM representatives:** Terry Boyle, Lana Bartholomew, Lucy Kirjan, Darren Moor, Daniel Larson  
**Proxies:** A Emmott proxy for J Harrison  
**RAPAD (Secretariat):** D. Arnold, K Arnold  
**Guests:**  
**Apologies:** Apologies were noted from Judith Harrison, and Angus Emmott is her proxy

## 1. Welcome and opening comments

1.1 Opened at 9:10am

*Welcome / housekeeping – D Arnold*

**Action - David to forward expenses forms**

*Welcome to Country – G Fogarty*

*Message from Minister Cripps – D Moor*

Minister Cripps has granted extension for WRAP process from end March to mid-May. This message will be communicated by ABC radio today. This will be an additional six weeks.

*Expectations from the panel and outcomes from this meeting - L Bartholomew*

Minister Cripps is cognisant of not requiring WRAP to provide a legislative model

He sees the role of WRAP as providing community sentiment and feedback from the groups they are representing

Minister Cripps is not expecting to get consensus from the group on all issues; as he respects all groups have different ideas

Need to have these good discussions

He understands there may be some similar beliefs, but he would like advice of the differing views

Minister acknowledges there is a wealth of knowledge of panel



## 1. Welcome and opening comments

In terms of process an extension of timeline for advice to be received; the Minister receives advice from the WRAP which in turn is sent onto his department (DNRM) who will present back to him a range of options for him to make a decision  
Minister will then provide feedback on what his decision is. Aiming for a mid-year decision but this is the Ministers decision

The process today is aimed to position / facilitate the WRAP to be in its best position to provide advice to Minister with some consolidation of ideas and view

Tool prepared (and distributed to WRAP) to give structure to process; log of process, issues, and discussions to date for use with further discussion and recording of viewpoint. Opportunity for consultation for groups represented and to provide advice to Minister and DNRM

DNRM is seeking clarity around issues throughout this meeting to obtain deeper understanding of viewpoint to be able to provide best advice to Minister.

Discussion on day two regarding process of preparing advice from WRAP

### *P Douglas*

Outlined his email re his discontent with the process. He has a feeling like a '*brumby being herded*' although Gov't assures this is not the case  
He spoke on issues with mining and outflows to water systems; Gov't shortened red tape to shorten pump time at one mine; Lady Annie problems; Dee River problems; 13 spills in Gulf

Coal seam extends right across to Aramac which will put impact on this catchment

This Gov't is not making it any harder for mining; he outlined problems with (CSG related) water testing identified by DCQ; despite threats of legal action from a CSG entity he took matter to Minister but nothing was done; all testing results should be up on public domain

Why isn't Gov't doing its own monitoring and testing

Not all bores are fixed as stated

Not impressed with Gas Field Commission – did not want all information – Gov't's are making job easier for mining (accept plenty of regulation) but not enough is done; it is threatening best cattle grazing country

This WRAP committee has not taken an entire catchment view through to the end of the system

Issues have been identified for over 17 years; we have witnessed the world heritage argument

In the past the LEB community was given the opportunity to look after catchments, and committees were set up

He presented his view that the WRAP committee is not balanced (WRA / conservation) but Minister did not agree

He is assured by Gov't that it has not got a pre conceived outcome; in reflection over last 10-15 years things are looking easier for mining

DCQ was set up as a follow on of Lake Eyre Basin group to ensure least impact on system

Pest and weeds identified as most prolific problem, and photos showing P&W are increasing

We want the science viewpoint but we don't like those views when told we need to step back from impacting on river system

Controls need to be put in place now re CSG

He appreciates departments work on WRAP, and that they are not trying to offer leading questions

### *S. McKenzie*

Thanked RAPAD and Cr Chandler re recent press release

Acknowledge that mining in the South West has been ongoing for 40 years and it has been very positive thing for region, although there are always

## 1. Welcome and opening comments

problems

Has faith in collective decision making process and the good representation on the WRAP

Wild Rivers (WR) best argument was its overarching legislation, but this was changed at the change of Gov't; Gov't needs to have a position that meets general support of people associated of river system. Good policy tends to stay

*A. Emmott*

Rivers and wetlands around the world being destroyed because policies not put in place, but changes occur, when Gov't changes

Good primary legislation with long term principals is required which is overarching that has the capacity to override Govt/coordinator general

*J. te Kloof*

The WR supporters timed their approach to Gov't badly and they needed to get local support up and down river on board and things may have been different

We shouldn't be micromanaging with WRAP. Great faith in next generation as they are becoming more aware of environment but our generation's role is to not stuff up on our watch.

*J. Groves* – as new member – was battling with process and that it bogged down on some points. Gov't legislation has kept rivers in good condition to date. Previous Gov't allowed mining and need to not blame this Gov't

*A. Emmott*

RAPAD (forum communique) supported concept of primary legislation and went through principle by principle (2010) and agreed on principles for their community to go to Govt. Communities need to have ownership

Water planning process – how will this fit in with principles?

*B. Bode*

Community wants protection of river system but not Wild River as its seen as a precursor for World heritage

*P. Douglas*

Provided a background on Wild Rivers and his discussions with former Premiers and Prime Minister at Windorah

Community advised they didn't want WR

He advised Premier to 'bloody well' leave the rivers alone

Premier stated Gov't would 'leave river alone' at Windorah meeting however green vote was needed to win election so back tracked and we got WR

*Lana Bartholomew/ D. Moor*

What has been highlighted is that there is lots of difference of opinion; but there is also high commonality

## 2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

### Resolution: The minutes from the February 18,19 meeting are a true and accurate record

All in agreement with exception of:  
J TeKloot raised the statement from R Kingsford noted on page 14 of minutes (first dot point). 'Upper' and 'lower' to be reversed and amended

Key Discussion Points			
	Resolution / Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe
<p><b>3.1</b></p> <p><b>Lake Eyre Basic under the Spotlight</b> Angus Emmott and Richard Kingsford gave an overview of the forum</p> <p>AE  18 yrs on LEB process and while lots of discussion now moving into place on developing new water planning process Concern in community re consultation on what is going on in the process Good representation – OBE, Georgiana Pastoral Company lots of community people Mining Sector (TW) GBOF, tourism and native landholders ? Communique developed RK – potential impact of irrigation of farming, tourism, native title Surface temp to go up – less ground water What happens to water holes when small scale water usage up stream? Importance of waterholes for turtles some as old as 80 which identifies longevity of waterhole Boom and bust effects of ecosystem and effect of river system Lot of uncertainty on impact that may occur Concern about lack of consultation particular in South Australia on decision on WRAP Legislative framework for something to be developed that would still protect (but not WR).</p> <p>J Groves – disputed no invitation to RAPAD Chair to attend. Were there Qld speakers? AE / RK  information fairly openly dispersed to general public and that all involved in rivers were welcome to attend. Acknowledge it was a short time frame and apologised to those who missed out. Only few ministers received formal invitations.</p>			
<p><b>3.2</b></p> <p><b>Discussion on identifying areas for protection – Lucy Kirjan</b> Lucy provided an overview of maps and mapping</p> <p>D Moor - enquired as to whether WRAP has any views on spatial layers related to WR i.e. what type and should they be included? A Emmott – strongly support spatial layer related to WR</p>			

3. New Business	Key Discussion Points	Resolution / Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe
	<p><i>R Kingsford</i> – provides transparency and clarity</p> <p><i>S McKenzie</i> – do mining resources have mapping?</p> <p><i>T White/aw</i> – WR mapping differs to Env Act ??</p> <p><i>D Moor</i> – There are a range of options regarding mapping - different types/styles of mapping – static and dynamic (progressively updated) sometimes one map used for multiple purposes – views on style of mapping from panel.</p> <p><i>J te Kloot</i> – when Minister makes a final decision it needs to be supported by some form of mapping</p> <p><i>D Moor</i> – static or dynamic - dependent on purpose of map – what and how are important considerations</p> <p><i>R Kingsford</i> – need to be clear that rivers are not every bit of the basin</p> <p><i>J Groves</i> – legislation must not that onerous that people don't want to stay; and be custodians to monitor and address pest and weeds for example</p> <p><i>S McKenzie</i> posed - "What does the panel want to protect against other than irrigation and mining?"</p> <p><i>A Emmott</i> - issues which need to be considered are around climate change and the potential of bigger floods or longer drought time</p> <p><i>B Bode</i> - if legislation is too prescriptive then all activity will stop and the area will die</p>			
	<p><b>Mining and Petroleum</b></p> <p><i>B Bode</i> – buffer areas – 2km is too far – could be dependent on where ie on flood plain that is fair but on case by case basis</p> <p><i>J te Kloot</i> – very binding and also vague as to the specifics of type of mining</p> <p><i>A Emmott</i> – concern of Galilee Basin is the cumulative impacts on GAB ?? (chck with angus)</p> <p><i>T White/aw</i> – environmental restrictions already prohibit or make prohibitive \$\$ wise, mining development in flood plain areas.</p> <p><i>P Douglas</i> – while not organic it is clean and green and mining can affect this ie Lady Annie – within 24 hrs o/seas purchasers were concerned and contacted organic producers to see effect. Don't want to ban mining – but concerned with discharge into LEB. Mining but not if it causes impact.</p> <p><i>T White/aw</i> – mining needs to meet all the restrictions/processes and these may stop/hinder mining</p> <p><i>J te Kloot</i> – What if a Cannington type mine was discovered sth of Windorah, what would WRAP position be?</p> <p><i>D Moor</i> – Fitzroy – mines have discharge limits – sufficient passing flow allowed to discharge. What WRAP is saying is that this process would not be applicable.</p> <p><i>T White/aw</i> – Gap between regulators controlling smaller companies and larger companies is reducing. Smaller companies looking to find small amounts then sell to larger companies.</p>			

3. New Business	Key Discussion Points	Resolution / Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe
	<p><i>D Moor</i> – not about prohibition, but about outcome based conditions. Common principle-leave within core sensitive area as it would be on higher ground. Code might be different and bar might be different but same principle.</p> <p><i>A Emmott</i> - Safe guards and restrictions need to be stringent to guard against outcomes from natural disasters ie earthquakes</p> <p><i>J te Kloot</i> – can DNRM write legislation that suits all parties of WRAP</p> <p>Outcome doesn't change it is the ease with which the industry gets there that changes.</p> <p><i>T Boyle</i> – posed to group – “No outright prohibition request?”</p> <p><i>J Fogarty</i> – against CSG in LEB</p> <p>General discussion = Mining can take place but with no effect on river flow or the health of the river system / aquifer</p> <p>PD – water testing issues raised to Govt – still to be addressed</p> <p>SM – How does this group now move forward?</p> <p>LEB  LEB specific requirements ....</p> <p>JtK – Are there areas that we want to have prohibition on mining? More sensitive areas.</p> <p>TW - Precluding any area from mining prohibits any future technological development</p> <p>DMJ summarised discussion: “within the HPA prohibition on open cut mining that there is potentially a code that set high bar on other mining ie Petroleum CSG, outside of HPA another regime applies.”</p>			
	<p><b>Irrigation</b></p> <p>P 8-10 of information booklet</p> <p>Sleeper Licences:</p> <p><i>J Fogarty</i> - GDCAAG proposed that four sleeper licences be bought back or retired.</p> <p>Verbose Discussion:</p> <p><i>J te Kloot</i> – no to retirement, allow licence owners to change to small scale and sell?</p> <p><i>D Moor</i> - Is WRAP willing to entertain the theory of irrigation?</p> <p>What is the demand/driver to change what is currently happening with irrigation?</p> <p>If there is to be irrigation – this is not to be beyond the current allocations/scope</p> <p><i>B Bode</i> - Irrigation is useless without storage system</p> <p><i>A Emmott</i> – no further irrigation near Windorah; too many variables of impact</p> <p><i>J Groves</i> – requested clarity on irrigation information ie departmental person who could talk on irrigation. DNRM to provide information notes on irrigation/water licences etc</p> <p><i>P Douglas</i> – raised the importance of water to small western towns to ensure viability and longevity</p> <p>S McKenzie summarised</p> <p>1. No more allocation to be undertaken</p>			

<b>3. New Business</b>				
	<b>Key Discussion Points</b>	<b>Resolution / Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	<p>2. Resource plan as it sits now is basically acceptable acknowledging that there is not commercial viable</p> <p>TW – totally support no more allocations – form industry perspective – difficult for non-irrigation industry to make judgement</p> <p>JF – no increases and four sleeper licence should be bought back and not re-allocated.</p> <p>R –</p> <p>D Moor – common view that no more be allocated and question is around what happens to sleeper licence ie retired, reimbursed, reallocated.</p>			

**Meeting:** Western Rivers Advisory Panel Meeting 4: Day 2  
**Day / Date / Time:** Tuesday 19 March @ 9am  
**Venue:** RAPAD Skilling Training room, 28 Pelican St, Longreach  
**WRAP members:** Cr Julie Groves, Cr Bill Bode, Cr Stuart McKenzie, John te Kloot, Judith Harrison, Richard Kingsford, Rob Jansen, Trevor Whitelaw, Gerry Fogarty, Peter Douglas, Angus Emmott  
**DNRM representatives:** Terry Boyle, Lana Bartholomew, Darren Moor, Daniel Larsen, Lucy Kirjan  
**Proxies:** Angus Emmott for Judith Harrison  
**RAPAD (Secretariat):** D. Arnold  
**Guests:**  
**Apologies:** Judith Harrison

5. New Business				
	Key Discussion Points	Resolution / Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe
5.10	8:00am Meeting opened Darren: recap agreement for two views some licences (at Windorah) should be retired, open up to be used. Viewed document titled Irrigation. Bode: not happy with point 4 if there is to be irrigation it is not to exceed the current allocations if we look to retire the two large licences or turn into asset as John suggested by breaking down. Peter: Third option to do nothing Risk you run by leaving them there, someone could take to the gov and ask for lower thresholds. No storage, can't go changing conditions as this would create an increase of value Darren to ask for guidance, with the 3 options Discussion of the wording on dot point 4 Lucy: Discussion finished at 8:30 unresolved			
5.11	Major Weirs Angus: Not major structures, create a weir in an ecologically sound way <b>Darren: Ok with major weirs in instream water ways for town water supply</b> Addressed point 4 referred to previous minutes? Julie Groves noted the triggers and extensive time frame to upgrade Jundah's weir replacement Change WRP to grant the town water supply request <b>Major weirs in relation to industrial development</b> <b>Use the existing WRP for consideration of industry development</b>			

<b>5. New Business</b>				
	<i>Key Discussion Points</i>	<i>Resolution / Action</i>	<i>Responsible Officer</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
<b>5.12</b>	<p>Overland flow storages and obstruction</p> <p><b>Overland flow for the purposes of stock and domestic/Town water supply</b></p> <p><b>No issues agree with that</b></p> <p><b>Overland flow for the purpose of other purposes eg mining and industry</b></p> <p><b>No issues agree with that keep the existing conditions of the WRP</b></p> <p><b>Store off the flood plain</b></p> <p>The WRP does not state that storage can not be contained on a floodplain</p>			
<b>5.13</b>	<p>In-stream quarry material</p> <p><b>Existing provisions of the water act and EP act provides adequate provisions and the WRAP noted Sustainable take was very important</b></p>			
<b>5.14</b>	<p>Industrial Developments adjacent to Aquatic Areas</p> <p>Tabled concerns are to be reviewed by gov't</p>			
<b>5.15</b>	<p>Weeds and Pests</p> <p><b>In agreement that pests and weeds are an ongoing significant issue and in need of major gov't and community input. With potential to reach pandemic proportions without genuine gov't attention. Biological control should be vigorously pursued. National intervention, industry threatening.</b></p>			
<b>5.16</b>	<p>Mining &amp; Gas</p> <p><b>John te Kloot tabled the current Agforce policy on CSG. Agforce - risk based approach</b></p> <p><b>Everyone else agreed with the Agforce Policy</b></p> <p><b>Trevor: Fundamentally if there are no bans on exploration in the LEB areas then the industry would not be opposed to the Agforce Policy</b></p> <p><b>Include mining document from yesterday.</b></p>			
<b>5.17</b>	<p>Process moving forward</p> <p>Today's statements added to the current discussion draft</p> <p>3 week period for tabling the discussion draft</p> <p>Links to mapping</p> <p>Addition of the minutes recommendations</p> <p>Redistributed to the group</p> <p>Still more opportunities for feedback</p> <p>Present suite of recommendations to the minister</p> <p>May/June timeframe</p> <p>Endorsement of the discussion draft</p>			



<b>5. New Business</b>	<b>Key Discussion Points</b>		<b>Timeframe</b>
	<b>Resolution / Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	<p>Circulate the discussion draft to networks            David to write up the recommendations and to give back to the group            Examples of previous recommendation statement to be provided by Terry            Collate the commonality, and ask every group to provide their personal views.</p> <p>Housekeeping            David has emailed around correspondence            David to respond to the personally sent emails            Expense forms have sent out by David            David to send out the public minutes from Dec, teleconference, final from last meeting</p> <p>Darren: not proposing to call another meeting, group may call one of their own.</p>		
<b>6. Next Meeting</b>			
➤			
<b>7. Meeting Closed</b>			
Meeting closed: Midday			

## Western Rivers Advisory Panel Survey Results Summary- Jan 2013

### Aim

The aim of the Western Rivers Advisory Panel (WRAP) survey, sent out in December 2013 and collated in January 2013, is to help inform further WRAP discussions, prioritise the provision of information regarding existing legislation and highlight particular areas of agreement and disagreement.

### Methodology

The survey was divided into three parts. Part A sought feedback on which Lake Eyre Basin assets are important to the WRAP membership. Part B sought feedback on where in the Basin and to what level, protection should be focused. Part C sought feedback on what issues/types of development were of most concern to the panel.

Initial analysis of the survey results has focused on determining WRAP priorities and the level of agreement within WRAP for each of the three parts of the survey.

Analysis of the first part, aimed to help determine (whole of) WRAP priorities with respect to a range of the basins assets. Responses were assigned a numerical value as follows:

- A response of None was assigned a value of 1
- A response of Low was assigned a value of 2
- A response of Medium was assigned a value of 3
- A response of High was assigned a value of 4
- A response of Very High was assigned a value of 5.

*Note: a response of None- Low was assigned a value of 1.5; Low- Medium a value of 2.5, Medium-High a value of 3.5, High- Very High 4.5.*

For each asset the “average” value was calculated by summing all values and dividing by the number of responses. The averaged values were then ranked from Low to High. Where averaged values were the same these were equally ranked. This provides a rough measure of which assets the WRAP as a whole prioritises from most to least important. The standard deviation of the response values was determined and then similarly ranked from low to high. This provided, for each asset, an indication of response consistency on a scale of “most agreement” to “least agreement” between panel members.

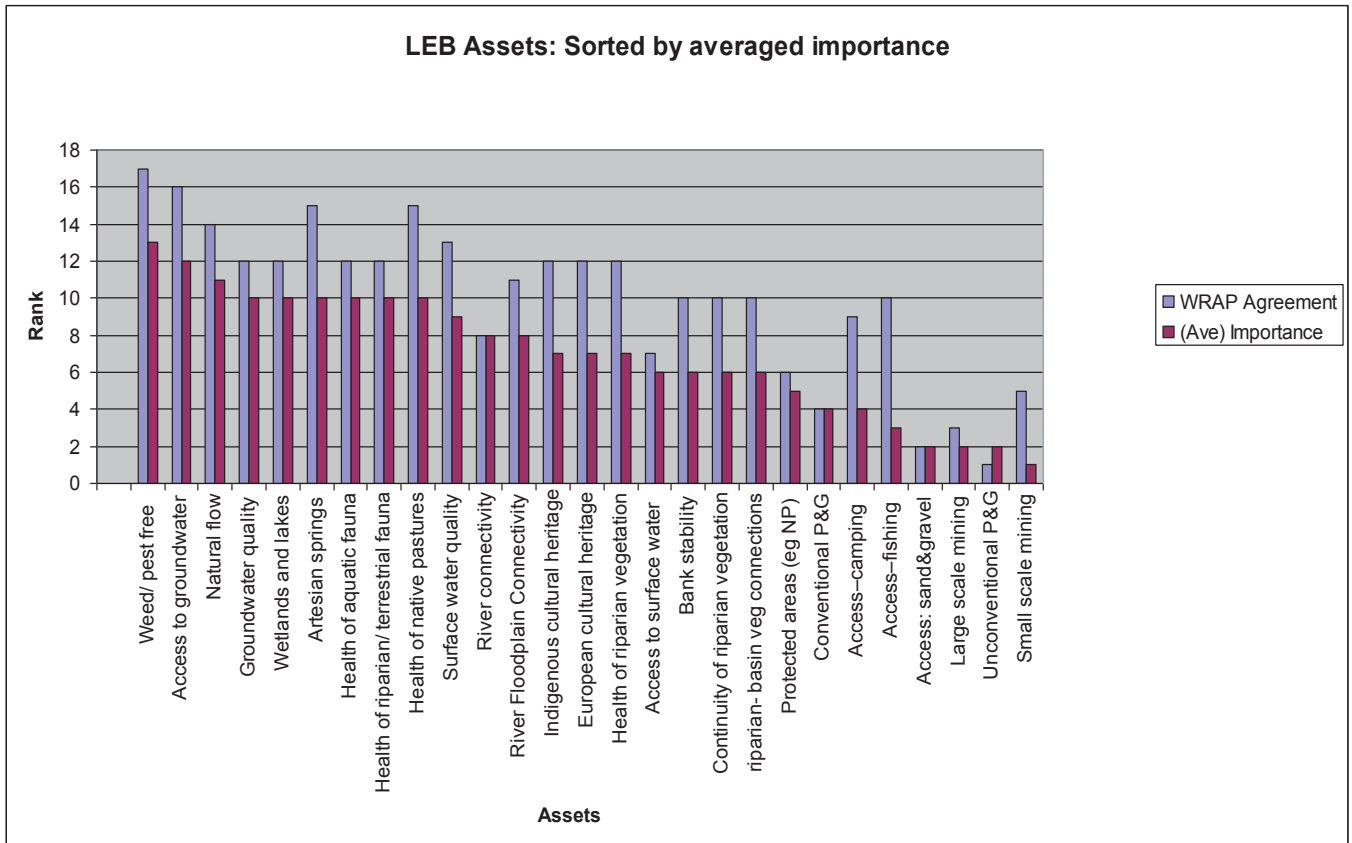
The same approach was utilised for Part 2 of the survey to determine (whole of) WRAP priorities and agreement in terms of areas of focus and levels of protection for different parts of the Lake Eyre Basin. Similarly with the approach to the first Part, a response of “No” was assigned a value of 1 (irrespective of whether the desired level of protection indicated for this No response); Low was given a value of 2, Medium a value of 3, High a value of 4, and Very High a value of 5. The averaged response was again ranked as was the standard deviation for responses to each question.

Again responses to Part C were assigned values, averaged and ranked to determine for the (whole of) WRAP, which types of development were of most concern and which of least concern. Again the standard deviation was also determined and a ranking applied to provide an indication of agreement in WRAP membership responses.

## Results

### Part A: Assets

The graph below shows the how the WRAP as a whole has prioritised the assets of the Lake Eyre Basin, and the level of agreement between WRAP members.



A larger version of the graph has also been provided in a separate document. Note- a ranking of 2 corresponds to an averaged response of “Medium”, a ranking of 6 corresponds to an averaged response of “High” and a rank of 13 corresponds to an averaged response of “Very High”.

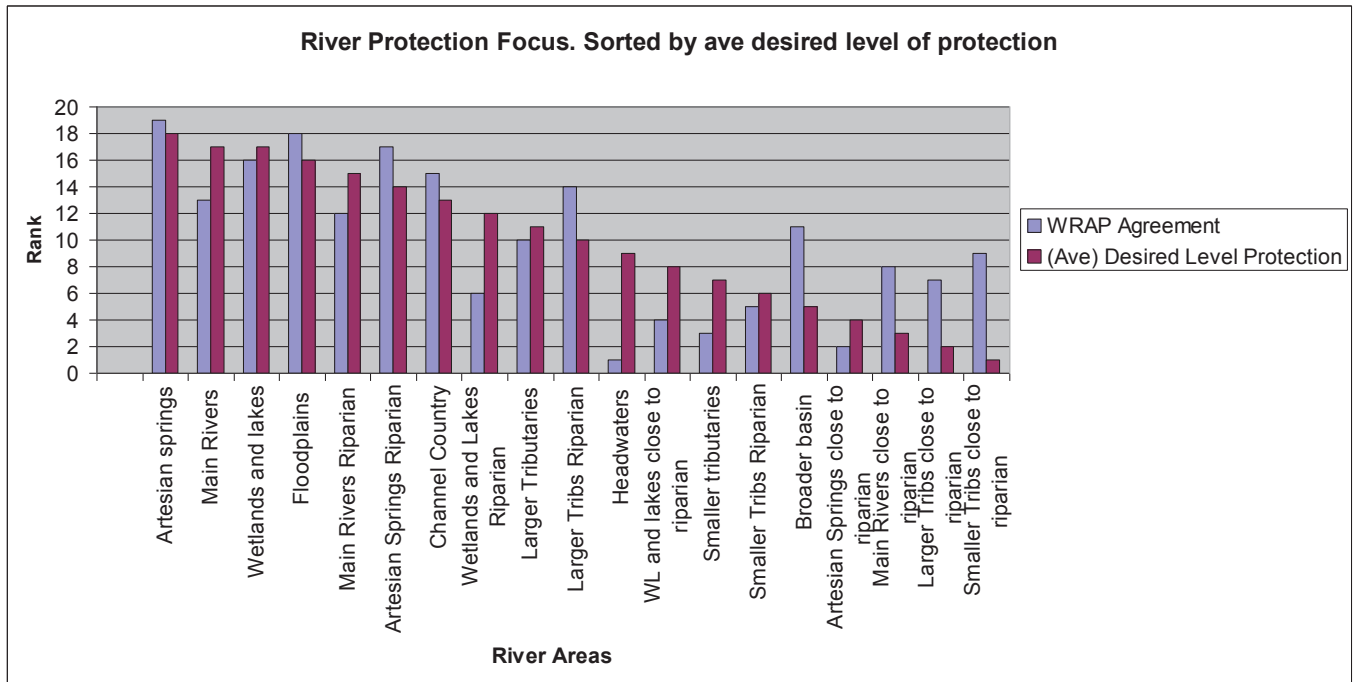
The majority of assets identified in the survey were given an average value of between High and Very High.

The highest ranked asset in the survey was a weed/pest free environment, followed by access to groundwater and natural flow, with high levels of agreement between WRAP members on the prioritisation of these assets. Groundwater quality, wetlands and lakes, artesian springs, health of aquatic fauna, health of riparian/terrestrial fauna, and health of native pastures were all valued equally as high to very high. Surface water quality, river connectivity, floodplain river connectivity, Indigenous and European heritage, the health of riparian vegetation, access to surface water, bank stability and the connectivity between riparian vegetation and basin vegetation were all valued as “high” or greater.

Protected areas, recreational access for camping and fishing, conventional petroleum and gas and access to sand and gravel were valued less, falling in the medium to high range and prioritised lower. Large scale mining, unconventional petroleum and gas and small scale mining were all low to medium in importance and were given the lowest overall priority by the majority of WRAP members- however these responses also showed little consistency in WRAP responses for this Part.

### Part B: Areas

The graph below shows the how the WRAP has a whole prioritises protection for the different parts of the Lake Eyre Basin and the level of protection considered appropriate. The level of agreement between WRAP members is also indicated.



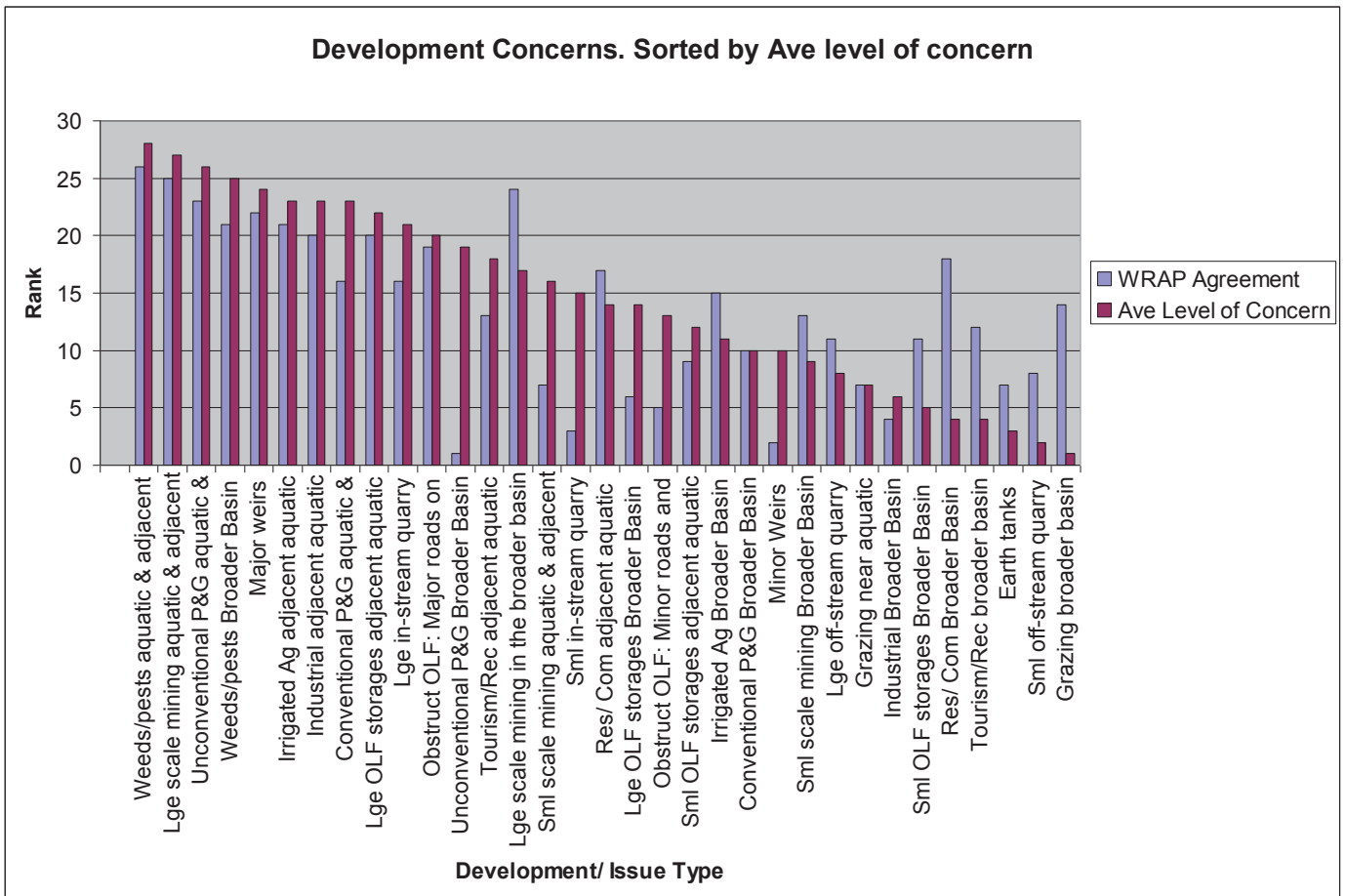
A larger version of the graph has also been provided in a separate document. Note- a ranking of 1 corresponds to an averaged response of a Low “desired level of protection”, a ranking of 7 corresponds to an averaged response of Medium and a rank of 13 corresponds to an averaged response of High. The area given the greatest priority by the panel as a whole, Artesian Springs was given an average rating of “4.5” or High-Very High.

The categories of area given an average priority of High or above include artesian springs and their riparian zones, the main rivers and their riparian zones, wetlands and lakes, floodplains and the channel country. Areas given an average value of between Medium and High include wetlands and lakes and their riparian zones and areas “outside but close to” riparian zones, larger tributaries and their riparian zones, headwaters and smaller tributaries- with riparian areas around wetlands and lakes and larger tributaries falling in the higher end of this category.

In general, areas outside of riparian zones and in the broader basin were prioritised lowest. A notable area of disagreement between WRAP members is in relation to the desired level of protection for headwaters.

### Part C

The graph below shows the how the WRAP has a whole prioritises the level of concern about development in parts of the basin. The level of agreement between WRAP members is also indicated.



A larger version of the graph has also been provided in a separate document. Note- a ranking of 2 corresponds to an averaged response of a Low level of concern, a ranking of 11 corresponds to an averaged response of Medium and a rank of 20 corresponds to an averaged response of High. Please also note that Irrigation scale responses have been provided separately.

Types of development/issues with averaged responses of High or greater, include: spread of weeds and pests in and adjacent to aquatic areas, large scale mining in and adjacent to aquatic areas, unconventional petroleum and gas in and adjacent to aquatic areas, spread of weeds and pests in the broader basin, major weirs, conventional petroleum and gas in and adjacent to aquatic areas, Irrigated agriculture (small scale) adjacent to aquatic areas, Industrial development adjacent to aquatic areas, large overland flow storages adjacent to aquatic areas, large scale in-stream quarry material extraction, and the obstruction of overland flows by major roads across floodplains. Unconventional petroleum and gas activities in the broader basin fall just outside of the High concern category however there is the least agreement across WRAP members in their responses to this Part.

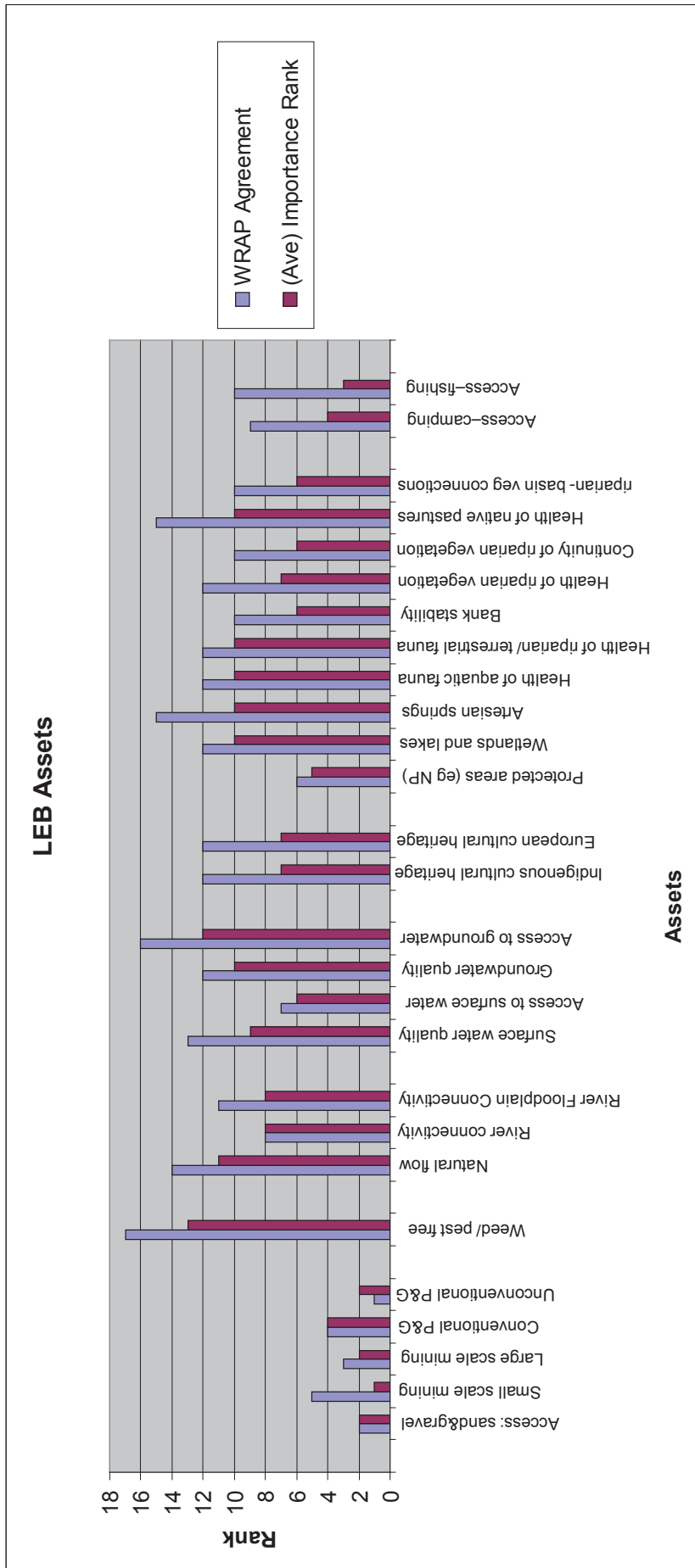
The responses indicate an averaged low level of concern for grazing in the broader basin. Other development types falling in the medium to low averaged range include conventional petroleum and gas activities in the broader basin, minor weirs and earth tanks, small scale mining in the broader basin, large off stream quarries, grazing near (but not adjacent to) aquatic areas, and if located in the broader basin, industrial activities, small overland flow storages, residential and commercial developments, tourism/ recreational activities and earth tanks and small offstream quarries.

Western Rivers Advisory Panel Survey Results Summary.  
DRAFT: Not Government Policy- For WRAP discussion purposes

DRAFT ONLY Not Gov Policy

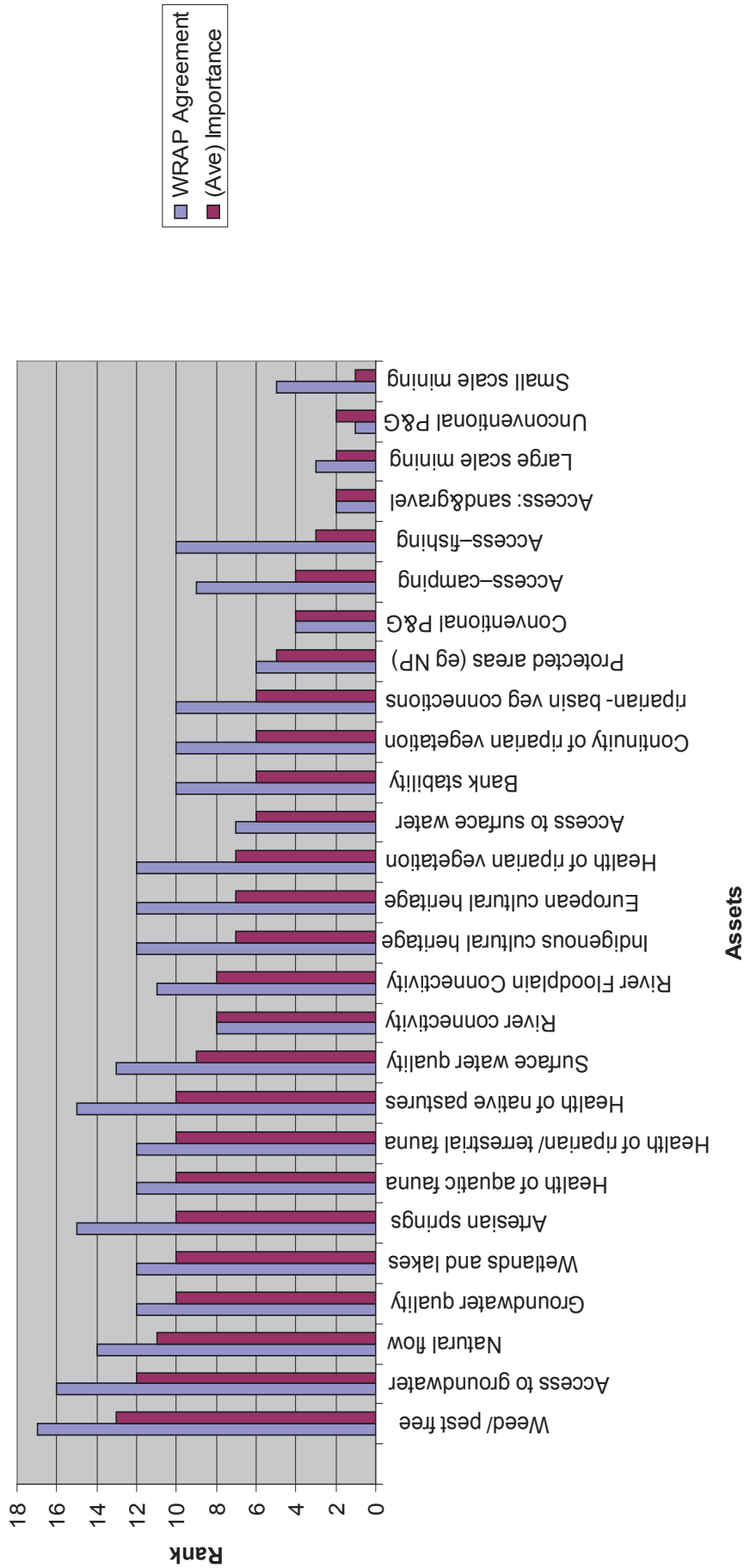
# WRAP SURVEY RESULTS: GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATIONS (JAN 2013)

## PART A



Ave Importance of 13 (Rank) corresponds to Very High (Ave)  
 Ave Importance of 6 (Rank) corresponds to High (Ave)  
 Ave Importance of 2 (Rank) corresponds to Medium (Ave)

### LEB Assets: Sorted by averaged importance

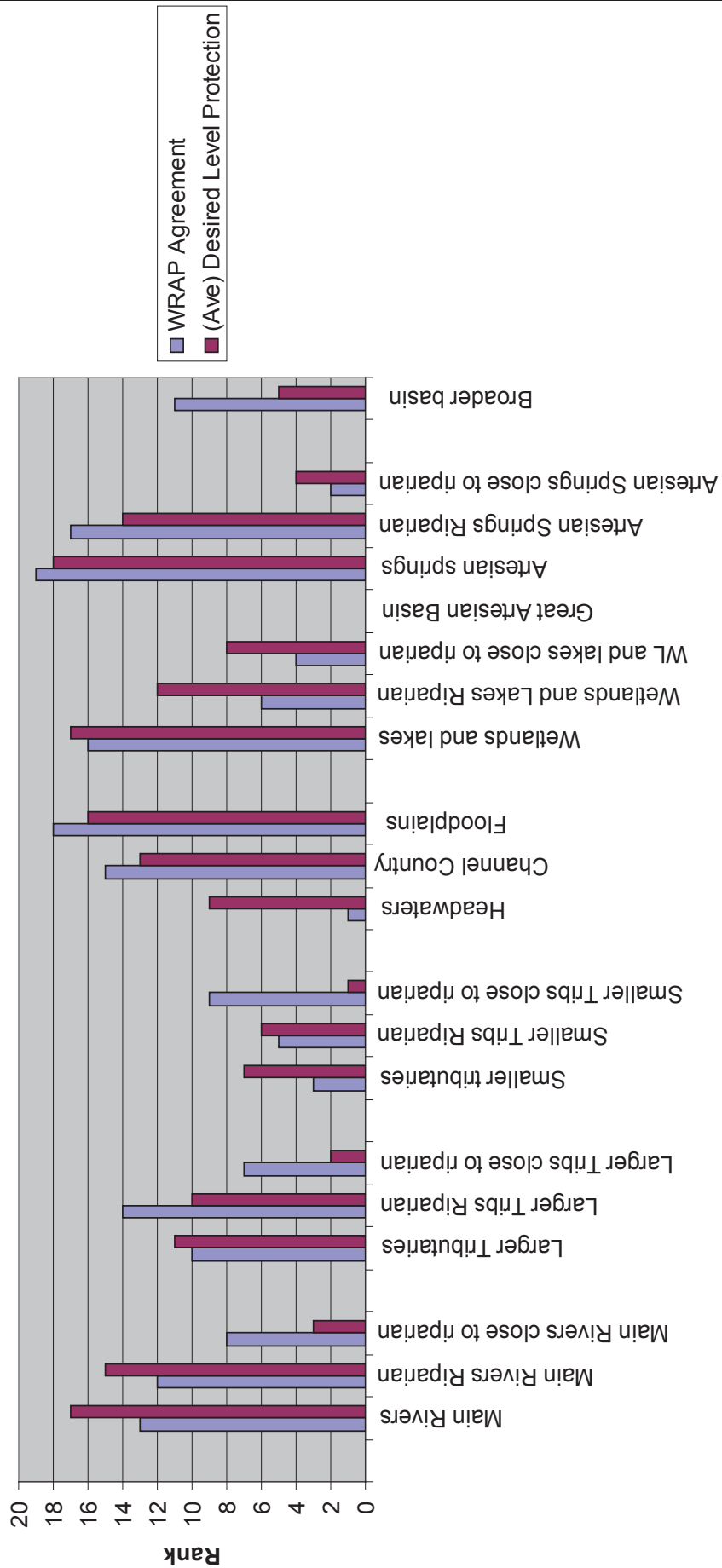


Ave Importance of 13 (Rank) corresponds to Very High (Ave)  
 Ave Importance of 6 (Rank) corresponds to High (Ave)  
 Ave Importance of 2 (Rank) corresponds to Medium (Ave)



## PART B

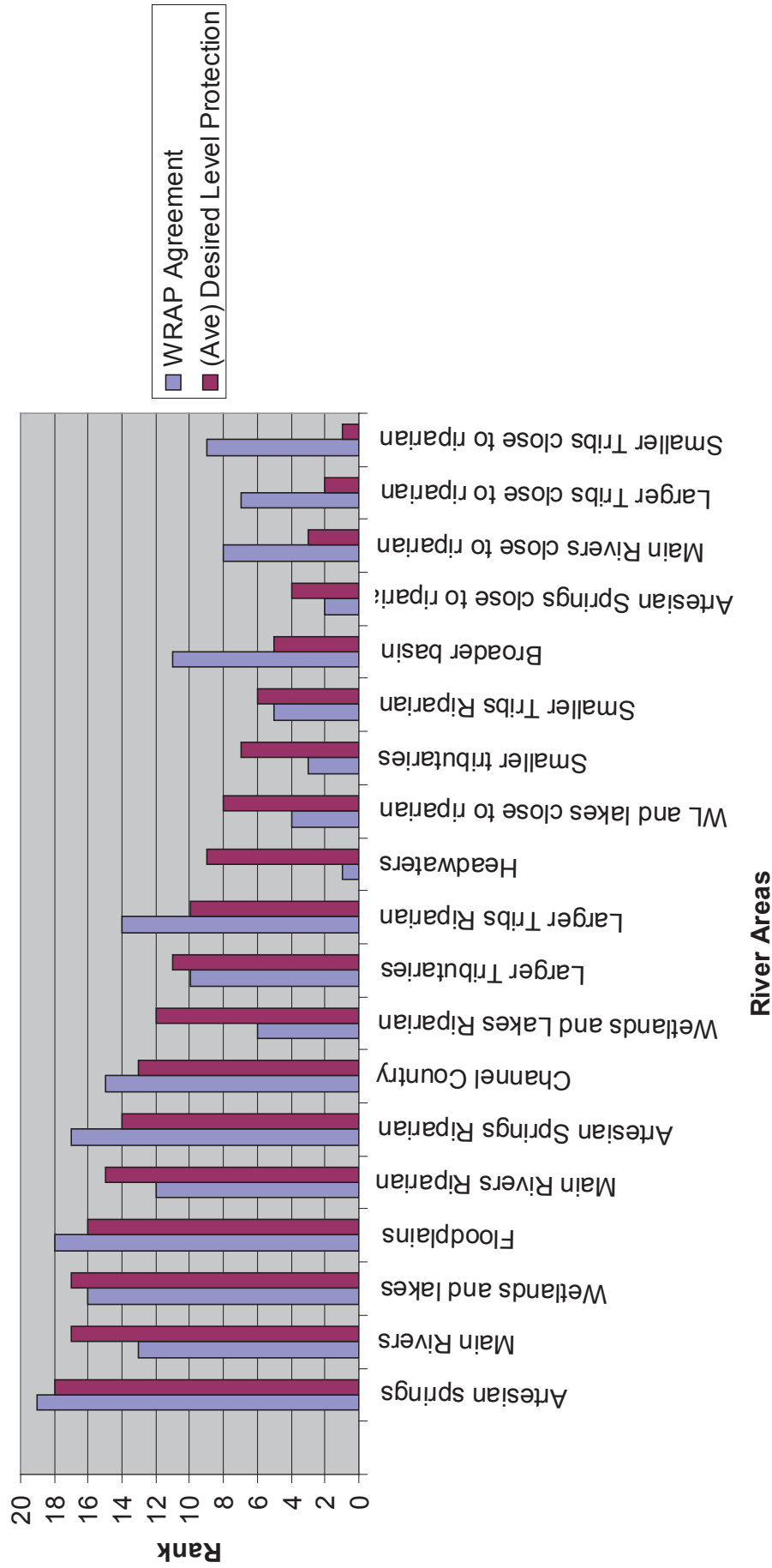
### River Protection Focus



### River Areas

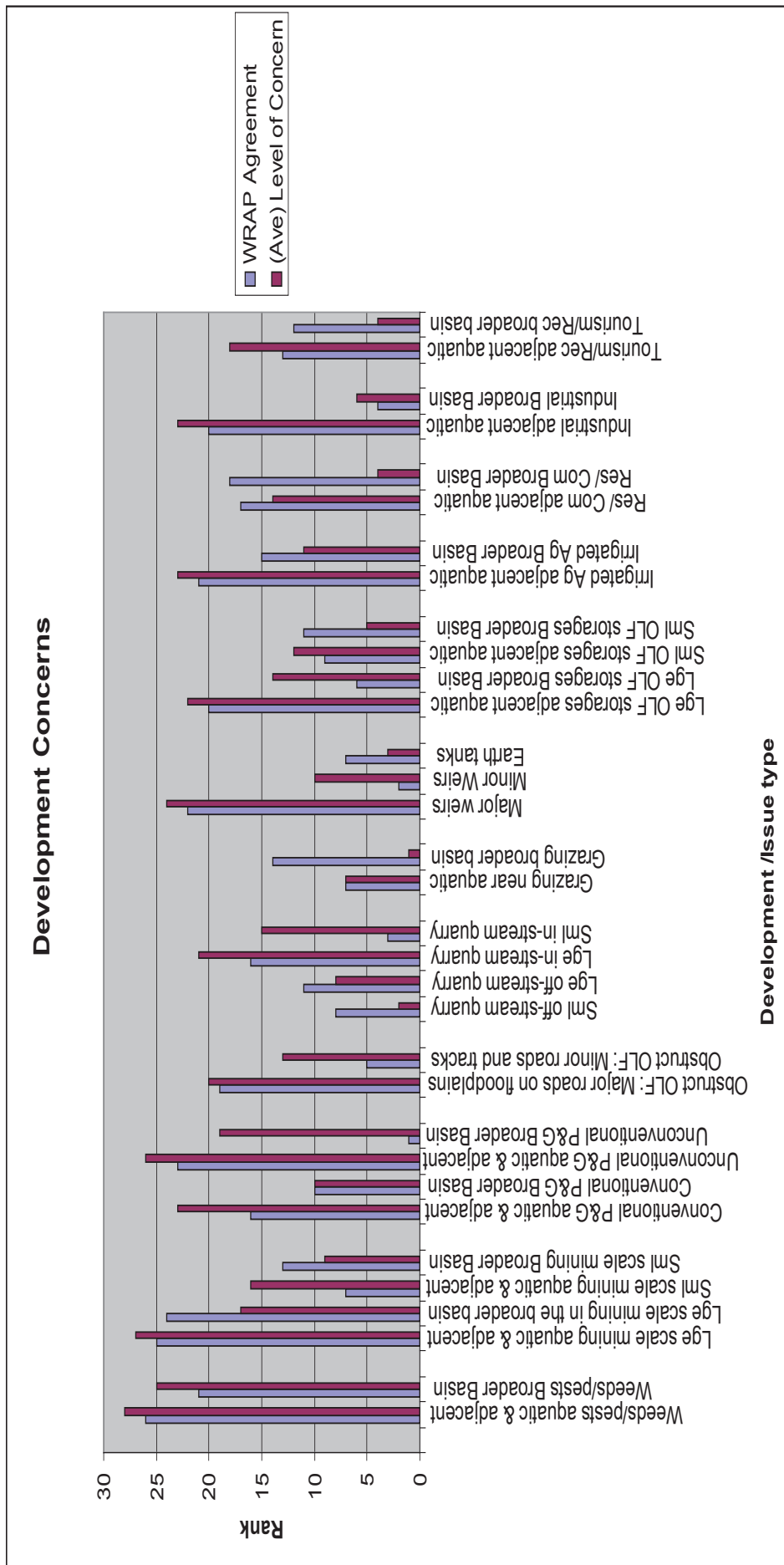
Ave Desired Level of Protection of 13 (Rank) corresponds to High (Ave) (18 corresponds to exactly half way between High and Very High)  
 Ave Desired Level of Protection of 7 (Rank) corresponds to Medium (Ave)  
 Ave Desired Level of Protection of 1 (Rank) corresponds to Low (Ave)

### River Protection Focus. Sorted by ave desired level of protection



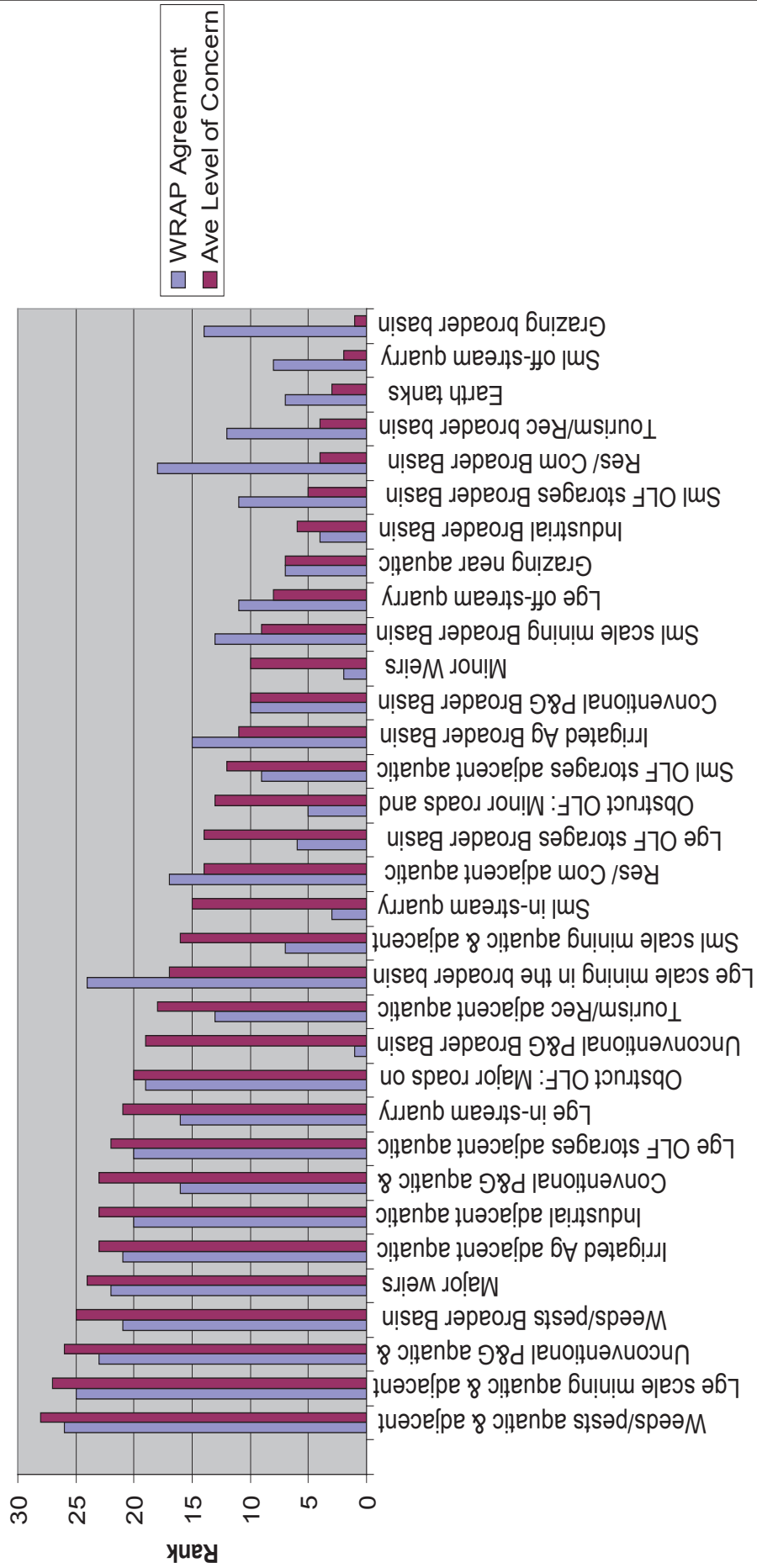
Ave Desired Level of Protection of 13 (Rank) corresponds to High (Ave) (18 corresponds to exactly half way between High and Very High)  
 Ave Desired Level of Protection of 7 (Rank) corresponds to Medium (Ave)  
 Ave Desired Level of Protection of 1 (Rank) corresponds to Low (Ave)

## PART C



Ave Level of Concern of 20 (Rank) corresponds to High (Ave) (28 corresponds to almost Very High(4.85))  
 Ave Level of Concern of 11 (Rank) corresponds to Medium (Ave)  
 Ave Level of Concern of Protection of 2 (Rank) corresponds to Low (Ave)

### Development Concerns. Sorted by Ave level of concern



### Development/ Issue Type

Ave Level of Concern of 20 (Rank) corresponds to High (Ave) (28 corresponds to almost Very High(4.85))  
 Ave Level of Concern of 11 (Rank) corresponds to Medium (Ave)  
 Ave Level of Concern of Protection of 2 (Rank) corresponds to Low (Ave)

## WESTERN RIVERS ADVISORY PANEL COLLATED RESPONSES TO POINTS RAISED

KEY POINT AND SECTOR RESPONSE	
SECTOR	KEY POINT AND SECTOR RESPONSE
	Mapping areas of focus for protection
	Existing mapping such as regional ecosystem maps should be used to define riparian areas, floodplains etc
RAPAD LG	A
NW LG	A
SW LG	A
DCQ	A
CCCC	A
GDCC	A
LEB SAP	A
LEB CAC	A
GDCAG	A
Agforce	A
Resources	A*
	Geomorphic / fluvial data should be used to define floodplains
	Need to identify flood dependent vegetation
	Where the mapping is not wild rivers related
	'High value' areas should be mapped as a trigger layer.
	Scale of development should be the major triggers irrelevant of where the development is. In some cases the trigger layer may be required
RAPAD LG	A
NW LG	-
SW LG	A
DCQ	A
CCCC	A
GDCC	A
LEB SAP	A
LEB CAC	A
GDCAG	A
Agforce	A
Resources	A*
	A trigger might be a possible legislative option for determining decision maker response to a development application based on geographic location i.e. prohibiting some form of destructive developments in or near watercourses and floodplains
	Not clear exactly what a triggers for but assume development. Also not quite clear what is meant by 'high' areas
	Reference to 'main rivers' is to the Georgina, Diamantina, Thomson and Barcoo rivers and Cooper and Eyre creeks (see Map 1 page 4 of booklet provided).
RAPAD LG	A
NW LG	A
SW LG	A
DCQ	A
CCCC	A
GDCC	A
LEB SAP	A
LEB CAC	A
GDCAG	A
Agforce	A
Resources	A*
	Watercourses and floodplains identified in existing declarations should be transferred into new regime
	Reference to 'larger tributaries' is to the streams listed in the Cooper Creek basin water resource plan and wild rivers declaration, and the streams listed in the Georgina-Diamantina basin resource operations plan and wild rivers declaration as 'major tributaries' and 'protected watercourses' (see Map 2 page 4 of booklet provided).
RAPAD LG	A
NW LG	A

SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	Do not wish to see wild rivers mapping retained
<b>Resources</b>	A*	
		The location and extent of 'artesian springs', 'wetlands and lakes', 'floodplains', 'Channel Country' and 'riparian zones' be identified / based on mapping held by Queensland Government that reflects on-ground conditions.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	-	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	-	Have they the best mapping?
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	Perhaps some local knowledge for lesser known sites
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	Ground truthing important where data quality or map scale is poor
<b>Resources</b>	A*	* This issue needs to be managed carefully to ensure the maps are correct and don't simply become another (replicate) set of declaration areas. What assurances do we have that the pre-existing maps are correct? (Comment applicable to all points in this section)
		<b>Consultation</b>
		There should be broader representation on WRAP.
RAPAD LG	A	WRAP should be able to invite skills based community members to discuss different issues. EG Irrigation Errol Entriken who operates irrigation business on upper Diamantina. Dam builders, people from areas where CSG is already happening. Greater Council representation to support Julie Groves. More representation from local business
NW LG	D	
SW LG	D	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	No tourism, proper Indigenous, conservation, South Australian or federal representation
GDCC	-	
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	D	
Agforce	D	Current representation appropriate, public consultation will provide ample opportunity for other interest groups
<b>Resources</b>	D	
		Community consultation should take place once the Minister has an alternative strategy option prepared.
RAPAD LG	A	It depends – not necessarily – I recommend stakeholder consultation
NW LG	-	Why
SW LG	A	

DCQ	A	I agree but many people are fed up with consultation- will the gov't listen??
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	Strong agreement with this
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	Focussed and short and locally targeted
Resources	D	The WRAP process has adequately addressed stakeholder and community input. In any event it is up to the Minister to ascertain if further consultation is required.
<b>General</b>		
RAPAD LG	A	Definitions are needed for terms being used including: "major weirs", "adjacent", "aquatic", "small scale irrigation", "broader basin", "large overland flow storage". All weir applications need to be assessed with the of DNRM having regard for the size and impact on the river and land initially in the area and then the impact downstream. Cumulative effects as well
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	No expansion of irrigation
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	Clarity around any regulation is important but definitions should be based on consultation and be justifiable. Use standardised definitions from Water Act where possible.
Resources	A	
RAPAD LG	A	Floodplains should be defined using hydrological information e.g. extent of flooding. Needs to be ground truthing consultation with individual landholders as some mapping is incorrect The Hydrology level is arbitrary. 1 in 10 or 1 in 100
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	Plus geomorphic and fluvial data
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	Also tie in with above definitions about flood-dependent vegetation
LEB CAC	A	Floodplains require protection for cultural as well as environmental reasons - they are known to contain Aboriginal sites of significance including burial grounds
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A/D	What frequency of flooding is being considered? This is an important issue in dictating the geographical extent of any additional protections
Resources	A	
RAPAD LG	D	"Aquatic areas" (as identified in survey) should include floodplains. Priority should be given to identified water courses
NW LG	D	No water lies
SW LG	N/A?	
DCQ	-	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	

LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	Floodplains are not permanently covered in water and so would not think that they qualify as an 'aquatic area' – need an individually relevant definition.
Resources	D	The impact of this is not clear
RAPAD LG	A	New terminology should be used for protected areas rather than wild rivers terminology. Identifying areas as High Preservation Areas as part of an extensive consultation process may lead to the unnecessary removal of existing sustainable activities like grazing from these areas by future extension like World Heritage or National Parks. The terminology is not important it is the outcome achieved. Where appropriate
NW LG	-	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	D	This may add more confusion
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	
Resources	A	Agree that Wild Rivers terminology should be abandoned and that existing terminology, as used in other applicable legislation (eg Environmental Protection Act, 1994 and associated regulations), be retained. The ecological health of the rivers should be ensured by rejecting <all?> new activities or projects (e.g. mining, gas, petroleum, irrigation) that have the potential to reduce or interfere with natural flows (quantity, variability and quality) and flow paths, within watercourses, river channels, wetlands and floodplains. <NB also included in sections on mining, gas, petroleum and irrigation with specific references to same> Should be dealt with non a case by case basis depending on the extent to which projects can effectively mitigate environmental impacts Nothing would happen on merits
RAPAD LG	D	
NW LG	D	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	Potential is the key word- threat mitigated -ok
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	There needs to be an assessment about the potential extent of this impact
LEB CAC	A	There is some divergence of view within the CAC – most agree with this; a minority express some reservations. Floodplains require protection for cultural as well as environmental reasons - they are known to contain Aboriginal sites of significance including burial grounds
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	Some reduction or interference may be accommodated as a sustainable development with appropriate regulation
Resources	D	Opposed to the outright rejection of activities, instead favour the management of risks through appropriate conditions/requirements. NB water management currently adequately addressed through existing legislation
RAPAD LG	A	The <alternative strategy> legislative frameworks should reflect (and be consistent with) the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement. The focus of the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement is on maintaining water flows through to the Lake Eyre, there needs to be some capacity for the northern section of the basin to capture, impound and utilise some of the flows to facilitate economic development while maintaining effective environmental flows and sharing equitably the water resource across the basin. Opposite direction Lake Eyre Basin Agreement should reflect and be consistent with Legislative and Community requirements bottom up regime. In principle Maybe but should be revisited and reviewed
NW LG	D	
SW LG	N/A?	



<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	Strong agreement
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A with provisos	Application must balance the economic and social values that are to be conserved and <b>promoted</b> (part 3.1a of IGA) and that application of the precautionary principle (3.1 in IGA) is risk and science based not used to stop legitimate development.
<b>Resources</b>	N/A	Risk of another layer There should be a legislative framework, such as a Lake Eyre Basin Rivers Management Act (introduced at the state/territory level) that effectively protects cultural, environmental and economic values throughout the catchment. This legislation should be binding over all other relevant legislation and the Queensland Coordinator General.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	Existing Queensland Legislation is sufficient to manage the resource. There needs to be an Interstate agreement to ensure equitable and environmentally sustainable management of the basin as a whole. Same as above In principle
<b>NW LG</b>	D	Too much control
<b>SW LG</b>	D	Extra legislation such as Wild Rivers has made existing legislation more confusing and unworkable. There is more than enough legislation without adding to it.
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	This state primary legislation should be binding on Mineral, Petroleum and Public Works acts
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	-	As a member of the Scientific Advisory Panel I will not comment on this.
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	There is a range of views in the LEB CAC on this. Most agree that separate legislation is needed, should have "head of power" and be binding on Petroleum and mining legislation.
<b>GDCAG</b>	D	
<b>Agforce</b>	D	This appears to be Wild Rivers mark II and should be rejected
<b>Resources</b>	D	Simply a replacement for the declarations/current WR Act – so no net regulatory gain. There are several layers of regulation, state and federal, already in place. The addition of an additional Basin specific Act is unnecessary and risks further inconsistency with current and adequate legislation, eg EP Act, Water Act, Petroleum Act. An established set of principles need to be adhered to in managing the basin environment. The Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement provides such a set of principles.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	D	Same again I have not read LEBIA
<b>NW LG</b>	-	Maybe but should be reviewed and revisited
<b>SW LG</b>	N/A?	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	Many members believe the LEB Agreement principles do not provide sufficient protection for the Basin environment, some members believe another layer of Govt legislation is not needed.
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A with Provisos	The IGA is focussed on eliminating adverse cross-border impacts. If this is seen as an absolutist objective it would potentially lock out all new development that has even a minor impact. Must not be used to lock out sustainable development.

<b>Resources</b>	D	Simply a replacement for the declarations/current WR Act – so no net regulatory gain. There are several layers of regulation, state and federal, already in place. The addition of an additional Basin specific Act is unnecessary and risks further inconsistency with current and adequate legislation, eg EP Act, Water Act, Petroleum Act Fisheries officers should be located in the basin to monitor compliance with, and enforce, fishing regulations - these officers would also have a role in ensuring sustainable camping practices by tourists.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	These officer should be multi tasked (no Silo Mentality)to monitor all activities in the catchment areas, mining, grazing, pest animals, tourism etc Dept Nat Parks staff could perform some monitoring work too Visit from time to time
<b>NW LG</b>	D	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	N/A	It is not clear that this is an issue relevant to the role of this committee
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	D	Land and sea rangers job where appropriately trained
<b>Resources</b>	A	
<b>Weeds and Pests</b>		
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	The control of weeds and pests is outside the scope of this process. Cannot exclude threat of weeds from consideration when legislating to protect the rivers This process is about maintaining healthy waterways and weeds are a significant risk to this. But how far do you go and how much red tape will be required in order to manage all movement of stock and traffic in and out of the catchment. Regarding weeds, stock and fodder
<b>NW LG</b>	D	
<b>SW LG</b>	D	
<b>DCQ</b>	D	
<b>CCCC</b>	D	Complimentary package included Indigenous rangers and co-contribution to RAPAD / DCQ pest and weed strategies - these should be on permanent funding
<b>GDCC</b>	D	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	D	
<b>GDCAG</b>	-	
<b>Agforce</b>	D	Key issue to the environmental values of the LEB
<b>Resources</b>	A	Ongoing funding should be guaranteed.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	
<b>NW LG</b>	D	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	With conditions
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	N/A	It is not clear to me what ongoing funding relates to.
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	
<b>GDCAG</b>	-	
<b>Agforce</b>	A	Where supported by a cost benefit analysis

<b>Resources</b>	A		
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	Federal, state and local government and all stakeholders including industry should continue to support the control of weeds and pests. Stronger strategic partnerships should be developed	
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A	Legal requirement now	
<b>CCCC</b>	A		
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A		
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A		
<b>GDCAG</b>	-		
<b>Agforce</b>	A		
<b>Resources</b>	A		
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	Appropriate legislation needs to be strengthened so that landholders can be forced to undertake wild dog control on their properties. Prefer to work constructively with landholders, sufficient capacity in existing legislation to require compliance without being heavy handed. Better to have reward system or incentive system. Discount on lease payments	
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	D		
<b>GDCC</b>	-		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	N/A	It is not clear that this is an issue relevant to the role of this committee	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A/D	There is a range of views in the LEB CAC on this. Some members believe that the issue of top order predator roles and their impacts on other species (cats, rabbits foxes etc) is important and that their control is not beneficial, other members believe dogs should be controlled.	
<b>GDCAG</b>	-		
<b>Agforce</b>	D	Prefer education, incentives and area-based collaborative approaches – local government level development and implementation?	
<b>Resources</b>	N/A	Not our area of knowledge Weed and pest control activities need to be undertaken in a catchment context.	
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	D	Better done by shire/region basis.	
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	A		
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A		
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A		
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	A		
<b>Resources</b>	A	Local Governments should be involved in a basin wide approach to weed and pest activities.	
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		

CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	Approach needs to be effective rather than prescriptive. How does this top down approach apply to pests?
Resources	A	
RAPAD LG	A	A strategic, top of catchment down approach to weed and pest control is required. Consultation needs to be undertaken with technical panels and landholders to develop a strategy that best addresses the issue. Or a tributary approach as well
NW LG	A	Both directions
SW LG	A	
DCQ	D	Intelligent strategic total warfare next q should be noted in conjunction
CCCC	A	
GDCC	D	I feel a whole of catchment approach is needed
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	Approach needs to be effective rather than prescriptive. How does this top down approach apply to pests?
Resources	A	
RAPAD LG	A	Weed and pest control needs to occur in a way that ensures the bottom of the catchment does not get overgrown while resources are focused on a "top down approach". This is the case if you chose the top down process. Whole of Catchment and tributary approach
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	Reward those that have achieved much
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	This can be consistent with the point above
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	Holding pattern lower down while eradication occurs in top? Effective?
Resources	A	
RAPAD LG	A	The Indigenous (Land and Sea) Rangers program is supported as a resource towards managing pest and weeds and illegal fishing. His should be all part of the policing/fisheries officers multi task officers All pests
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	D	No legal authority- don't give them any
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	

Agforce	A	This may be extended to appropriately qualified non-indigenous people if roles cannot be filled by indigenous people.
Resources	A	
The Ranger's "operational activities program" should be periodically reviewed.		
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	Biannually?
SW LG	A	Outside overall WRAP scope
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	Final decisions and direction by Aboriginal groups in negotiation with Qld Govt
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	N/A	It is not clear that this is an issue relevant to the role of this committee
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	D	
Agforce	A	
Resources	A	Outside overall WRAP scope
Large Scale Mining in and Adjacent to Aquatic Areas* **		
Regulation of mining in the Lake Eyre Basin should be rigorous and transparent.		
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	Mining such be regulation at a catchment level with cumulative impacts modelled
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	**
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
Resources	A	Should be rigorous wherever it occurs and the existing state regulatory regimes deliver on this outcome.
The regulation of mining should be rigorous Lake Eyre Basin wide.		
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	N/A	** Relevance is to potential impact on flow regimes
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
Resources	N/A	Should be the same everywhere. Duplication with above. The framework should ensure no impact from mining development.
Mining projects should be assessed on a case by case basis and where they can demonstrate that they have effectively responded to environmental management they should proceed.		
RAPAD LG	A	

		All activities i.e. mining, grazing, urban development, tourism all have an impact why should mining be singled out? Operate under the Current Mining Act Not possible to have no impact
NW LG	D	Anything has impact
SW LG	A	
DCQ	-	Limit impact as much as possible --some impact inevitable
CCCC	A	Sustainable development means no long term impact on other economies, environment - Lady Annie Mine impact present 4 years later...
GDCC	A	**
LEB SAP	A	Some members express the view that requiring 'no impact' is unrealistic
LEB CAC	A	*
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	
Resources	D	Can never ensure, no offsite impacts may be more appropriate There is no activity that has "no" impact. Existing agricultural activities have an impact. Tourism activities have an impact. The threshold test should be whether the impact is acceptable to regulatory agencies within the framework of environmental protection legislation. The approach to regulation of mining should be "over cautious".
		The approach to regulation of mining should be "over cautious".
		Process should be diligent and environmental outcomes given equivalent rating to economic and social outcomes.
RAPAD LG	A	Must be controlled
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	D	It needs to regulate understanding the risks that mining projects present
GDCC	A	**
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	**and on floodplains" Science based
Resources	D	Should be rigorous wherever it occurs and the existing state regulatory regimes deliver on this outcome.
		The precautionary principle should be applied in the development of alternative strategies.
RAPAD LG	-	There needs to be robust scientific basis to support the use of alternative strategies
		I don't understand this view - cannot answer without an explanation
NW LG	A	Always
SW LG	A	
DCQ	-	To What?
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A with provisos	* Should not be used to prevent ecologically sustainable developments
Resources	D	Nothing unless certain!
		Impacts should be prevented rather than relying on rehabilitation after contaminants are released into streams.
RAPAD LG	A	Both- all precautions need to be taken however you also need post actions
NW LG	A	Cannot stop all because something might happen must have good reason to stop development
SW LG	A	

DCQ	A		
CCCC	A	Remediation after the Lady Annie Mine spill has not worked, as with Mt Morgan Mine etc	
GDCC	A	**	
LEB SAP	A	The scientific evidence shows that contamination is not often possible to remove and it is extremely costly	
LEB CAC	A	Strong agreement	
GDCAG	-	*	
Agforce	A	What is a contaminant – and what amount actually causes harm?	
Resources	D	Rehabilitation can actually be an improvement. If this relates to offsite spills or discharges, we can agree within the right context. Existing agricultural activities have an impact. Tourism activities have an impact. Current legislation requires assessment of risks and mitigation measures to address. The alternative strategies should take precedence over decisions made under the Mining Act.	
RAPAD LG	D	This needs to be clearer in terms of its intent. Need more info	
NW LG	-	What alternate strategies	
SW LG	A		
DCQ	-	Don't know how much authority in alternates	
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A	**	
LEB CAC	A	Not clear what the meaning of this is. Presumably it means protection of the environment	
GDCAG	A	There is some divergence of view within the CAC – most agree with this; a minority express some reservations	
Agforce	A	* Should be included in the relevant Acts.	
Resources	D	A WR over ride, no environmental decisions are made under the Mineral Resource Act The Coordinator-General assessment process involves comprehensive analysis of potential impacts prior to any approval. Recent csg projects took 3 ½ years to be approved and involved nearly 20,000 pages of assessment material. Following consideration of this material, the Coordinator-General approved the project with nearly 1,200 conditions and requirements to gain further licences and approvals from other regulatory agencies. It is hard to see how any "alternative strategy" could be so comprehensive. Decisions made under the alternative strategies should not be able to be overridden by the Coordinator-General. There should be a robust assessment in place that should lead to this not happening. Need more info	
RAPAD LG	A		
NW LG	D		
SW LG	A		
DCQ	A		
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A	**	
LEB CAC	A	Not clear what the meaning of this is. Presumably it means protection of the environment	
GDCAG	A	More clarity needed on the Coordinator General's role. Most members believe that the Coordinator General would only overrule the strategy in favour of development and at the expense of the Basin environment. Some members feel that Coordinator General review would be a benefit.	
GDCAG	A		

<b>Agforce</b>	D	*	Placing the protections within other existing Acts means they are subject to Coordinator General decisions.
<b>Resources</b>	D		CG process stands alone
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		Future changes to regulatory frameworks (non wild rivers) should not reduce river protection in relation to large scale mining from pre wild rivers standards. The rivers should not be locked up with nothing to happen on them but any changes need to satisfy sound environmental management of the basin.
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	A		
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	**	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A		
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*	
<b>Resources</b>	D		Any legislation and regulation should allow for the consideration of current information and assessment of risk, with changes made as appropriate. Mining should not be stopped but a high level of protection should apply Lake Eyre Basin wide.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	D		There should not be mining in or near watercourses and floodplains, the risk is too high. See coal mining flooding in Qld Fitzroy River.
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	-	**	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A		Most CAC members believe that highly sensitive areas such as water courses and floodplains should not be mined, that they are too important ecologically and for other industries (eg pastoralism, tourism, conservation)
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*	
<b>Resources</b>	A		Is each state issue, the existing state regulatory regimes deliver on this outcome. Blanket bans (prohibitions) are not appropriate - a range of particular/specific criteria should apply instead. There are some areas where mining should not be allowed Blanket bans could be appropriate in certain zones/areas
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	D		
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	**	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	-		Unclear as to what areas/such prohibitions would apply. A majority of members support prohibitions of some activities (e.g. open cut mining) in some high value areas (e.g. floodplains)
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	D	*	In some areas of high value or where insufficient scientific information on impacts is available then a targeted prohibition is appropriate
<b>Resources</b>	A		Assessment should occur on a site specific (case by case) basis rather than applying prohibitions in particular areas.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		



NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	D	Mining should not occur in areas where the risk is too great
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	D	** These are catchment processes and it is important to respect the connectivity and assess across key areas. A majority of members support prohibitions of some activities (e.g. open cut mining) in some high value areas (e.g. floodplains). Floodplains require protection for cultural as well as environmental reasons - they are known to contain Aboriginal sites of significance including burial grounds
LEB CAC	D	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	*
Resources	A	Site specific assessments (level 1) should apply outside of the identified sensitive areas Need clear separation between mining and exploration
RAPAD LG	A	There should be no prohibition on mining at the extremities of the floodplain. There should be no risk of contaminants into floodplains Subject to it satisfying the overall environmental outcomes for the basin This is too loose
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	Mining can occur outside watercourses and floodplains under default state / federal regulation
GDCC	A	As long as it is of the floodplain
LEB SAP	D	** Important to identify the potential importance of different areas and effects on water flow and floodplain processes. A majority of members support prohibitions of some activities (e.g. open cut mining) across the full extent of the floodplain. Some areas are too precious to mine. Floodplains require protection for cultural as well as environmental reasons - they are known to contain Aboriginal sites of significance including burial grounds
LEB CAC	D	
GDCAG	D	
Agforce	D	*
Resources	A	There should be setbacks on open-cut mining activities. Subject to their being able to demonstrate that they can effectively mitigate the environmental risks.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	**
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	D	
Agforce	A	*
Resources	D	No – should be considered as part of the EIS / licensing process – project basis. Mining should be managed by stringent outcome based conditions rather than prohibitions.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	

CCCC	D	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	-	**
LEB CAC	D	A majority of members support prohibitions of some activities (e.g. open cut mining) in some high value areas (e.g. floodplains). Floodplains require protection for cultural as well as environmental reasons - they are known to contain Aboriginal sites of significance including burial grounds
GDCAG	A	*
Agforce	D	Mining should be managed by a combination Certainly no bans, separate mining and exploration
Resources	A	Mining should be prohibited in: a) floodplains; b) major rivers; c) major tributaries; d) lakes
RAPAD LG	A (all)	
NW LG	D (floodplains) A (others)	Floodplains-Depends on criteria
SW LG	A (all)	
DCQ	A (all)	
CCCC	A (all)	Outcome based, minimum interference
GDCC	A (all)	
LEB SAP	A (all)	** This should be avoided for each of these major aquatic assets because of the potential long-term consequences for the environment and downstream systems.
LEB CAC	A (all)	
GDCAG	A (all)	
Agforce	A (all)	*
Resources	a)D; b)A; c)D; d)A	Floodplains of major rivers and tributaries No – should be considered as part of the EIS / licensing process – project basis. a) Criteria? Conditions should be imposed to preclude some activities in “high value” areas. Should be treated on a case by case basis, it is incumbent on the miners to demonstrate that they can undertake the activity in a way that maintains the value of the area. On an individual basis Conditions have to be of high order every where
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	D	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	** This should relate to the potential impact of activities on these sites
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	-	*
Resources	D	How is this different from prohibition apart from not providing certainty? This is already addressed through existing regulatory frameworks. Open cut mining should be prohibited in “key sensitive areas” and a “higher bar” (<higher regulatory requirement>) for other areas e.g. major tributaries.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	D	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	

CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A	**	There is the potential for major downstream impacts
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	D	*	Prohibited in major tributaries as well. Could potentially agree if remove this from the example.
Resources	D		Some duplication with other comments
RAPAD LG	A		Mining should be excluded from instream areas (including channels in the channel country). What sort of Mining? What is an instream area?
NW LG	A		
SW LG	A		
DCQ	A		
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A	**	There is the potential for major downstream impacts
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	A	*	
Resources	D		Recharge areas for the Great Artesian Basin should be protected from cumulative impacts of mining.
RAPAD LG	A		
NW LG	A		Also need to know more
SW LG	A		
DCQ	A		
CCCC	A		Mining should not occur in or near GAB recharge or discharge areas, not should these projects reduce water levels
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A	**	There is the potential for major long-term impacts on ecosystems
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	A	*	Cumulative impact management is important but this does not necessarily point to prohibition
Resources	A		Buffer areas along rivers should be a minimum of 2 km – in these areas mining should be prohibited. A standard distance would be difficult to apply. It would depend on the overland flow regimes Depends on the definition of river How far depends where 2 km may be too far Maybe too far
RAPAD LG	D		
NW LG	-		
SW LG	D (?)		
DCQ	D		
CCCC	A		Buffer zone should vary according to for want of a better term "stream order
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	D	**	

		This should be defined by aquatic areas and boundaries. The river should include floodplains
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	*
		Back to a one size fits all approach. Needs to account for the needs of the environment e.g. in a floodplain 2km may not be far enough, in the upper catchment 2km may be too far.
Resources	D	No – should be considered as part of the EIS / licensing process – project basis. Prescribed standard buffer zones do not address site and activity specific risks, 2km may be too much or too little depending on the risk A 2 km buffer is excessive in some areas of the catchment e.g. in the north of the catchment.
RAPAD LG	D	Depends on the definition of river
NW LG	D	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	-	
CCCC	D	See above
GDCC	D	
LEB SAP	A	**
LEB CAC	D	
GDCAG	D	
Agforce	D	*
		Back to a one size fits all approach. Needs to account for the needs of the environment e.g. in a floodplain 2km may not be far enough, in the upper catchment 2km may be too far.
Resources	A	
RAPAD LG	A	A mining activity should not be authorised if it has the potential to reduce or interfere with natural flows (quantity, variability and quality) and flow paths, within watercourses, river channels, waterholes, wetlands and floodplains.
NW LG	D	Impact Assessable
SW LG	A	Do not disagree with intentions but impacts could mangle? manage/message?
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	**
LEB CAC	A	There is some divergence of view within the CAC – most agree with this, a minority express some reservations
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A with provisos	*
		Some reduction or interference may be within a sustainable level. 'Potential' is far too strong.
Resources	A	Should be considered as part of the EIS / licensing process – project basis. Particularly strong controls should apply to the coal industry.
RAPAD LG	D	Assessment should be based on a scientific determination of the environmental impact and the strategies that the miners present to manage this, the level of protection should be based on the level of risk. Why only coal mining?
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	-	Are they worse than uranium?
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	

LEB SAP	N/A	**	The framework should not identify a particular industry but focus on the potential impact
LEB CAC	A		Most members have serious concerns about coal development in particular in the LEB. Some members believe that coal should not be singled out.
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	D	*	Controls should be applied on an impact basis not an industry definition basis
Resources	D		Why coal?
RAPAD LG	A		Regulations mechanisms/conditions should be developed that are specific to the Lake Eyre Basin.
NW LG	D		Majority to be state-wide some minor specific items to be attributable to specific areas
SW LG	D		Merits?
DCQ	A		All of QLD is important eg. Bulloo River, Paroo, Warrego
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A	**	
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	A	*	Through the existing Acts not Wild Rivers
Resources	D		Existing regulatory framework (without wild rivers) is entirely sufficient to assess and license for the specific characteristics of the LEB without yet another set of standalone conditions.
			Model conditions specific to the Lake Eyre Basin should be developed.
RAPAD LG	A		
NW LG	A		Merits?
SW LG	D		
DCQ	A		
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A	**	
LEB CAC	A		Most members agree that 'model' operating conditions specific to the LEB would be beneficial. Some members feel that the existing regulatory framework (without wild rivers) is sufficient to assess and license for the specific characteristics of the LEB.
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	A	*	Through the existing Acts not Wild Rivers
Resources	D		Existing regulatory framework (without wild rivers) is entirely sufficient to assess and license for the specific characteristics of the LEB without yet another set of standalone conditions.
			Local governments should be involved in setting conditions for mining activities.
RAPAD LG	A		Only when necessary
NW LG	A		need
SW LG	A		
DCQ	A		Conflict of interest??
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	N/A	**	This is a matter beyond the view of the Scientific Advisory Panel
LEB CAC	D		Insufficient detail to judge this proposal. Issues may include the resources and expertise required within LG organisations to support their involvement.

<b>GDCAG</b>	D	Some members believe that mining regulation by the states and territories is adequate.
<b>Agforce</b>	D	* Consulted but this is a State Government responsibility
<b>Resources</b>	D	No – mining is regulated by the state Consideration of local views and values – addressed through EIS process
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives should be developed for the Lake Eyre Basin.
<b>NW LG</b>	D	All areas
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	**
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*
<b>Resources</b>	A	Possible, but the WQO system, and the way they have been used and developed has not always been undertaken well by government. Cumulative impacts need to be specifically considered.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	
<b>NW LG</b>	A	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	**
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	Strong agreement
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*
<b>Resources</b>	A	Requirements must include no pollution of the river systems. Need to control tourism, urban impacts etc Or a measure that counteracts the externality employed
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	
<b>NW LG</b>	A	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	** This should be within the framework of natural variation Strong agreement
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A	* Mining pollution Define pollution.
<b>Resources</b>	D	

		Should be considered as part of the EIS / licensing process – project basis. Is there an element of permanent effect meant to be part of this? Include the concept of no offsite impacts. The mined area may be impacted significantly and then rehabilitated to a stable landform. Maintenance of connectivity should be included in any development requirements. I don't know what this means
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	
<b>NW LG</b>	A	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	**
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*
<b>Resources</b>	A	
		Requirements must include no interference to: a) major rivers; b) major tributaries; c) floodplains
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A (all)	
<b>NW LG</b>	A (all)	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A (all)	
<b>CCCC</b>	A (all)	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A (all)	** These could preclude an important connecting stream which may be important for downstream ecosystems. Floodplains require protection for cultural as well as environmental reasons - they are known to contain Aboriginal sites of significance including burial grounds
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A (all)	
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*
<b>Resources</b>	A	
		c) Some reservations, if can be done with no impact Conditions should ensure that overland flow is not impeded by mining developments.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	D	We should not impede water flows in identified watercourse but there needs to be some flexibility in respect to overland flows outside of identified water courses No different to stock dams and diversion banks for stock and domestic dams
<b>NW LG</b>	-	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	**
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	Some members express the view that 'not impeded' at all may be unrealistic
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	N/A	*
<b>Resources</b>	A	Some impedance may be acceptable Possible, should be considered as part of the EIS / licensing process – project basis. Natural flows must not be impacted by mining operations.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	
<b>NW LG</b>	-	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	

DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	**
LEB CAC	A	Unclear as to which streams this applies to. Some members express the view that requiring 'no impact' in all streams is unrealistic
GDCAG	A	*
Agforce	N/A	Some impedence may be acceptable
Resources	A	
RAPAD LG	D	Outside of 2 km <exclusion> buffers and outside floodplain areas, special consideration should be given to the environment of the Lake Eyre Basin. All environmental requirements should be based soundly on the best science that is available and should apply consistently relative to the environmental value of the area. What consideration?
NW LG	-	
SW LG	A?	All of QLD is important including other catchments.
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	**
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	*
Agforce	A	Automatic level 1 assessment
Resources	D	Should be considered as part of the EIS / licensing process – project basis
RAPAD LG	D	Stream diversions on mining tenements should not be authorised. So long as the environmental case stacks up.
NW LG	D	
SW LG	D	Sometimes this makes sense
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	N/A	**
LEB CAC	A	Most members strongly agree.
GDCAG	A	*
Agforce	A with provisos	Under LWOLA Bill this is regulated via the EA process if approved. Currently unclear but potentially may deliver improved outcomes on a case by case basis. Want to avoid Lady Annie type outcomes.
Resources	D	Diversions do not necessarily cause long-term impacts. Should be considered as part of the EIS / licensing process – project basis.
RAPAD LG	A	Stream diversions on mining tenements should continue to be regulated as per the requirements of the Water Resource Plans (no decrease in the strength of regulation as proposed in the Land Water and Other Legislative Amendments (LWOLA) Bill.
NW LG	-	If the mine is existing - Is this a better option than having the stream closer to contaminants?
SW LG	A	Don't know
DCQ	A	Make them stronger- no meddling by the C/General
CCCC	D	Legislative protection on prohibiting stream diversions on mining tenements should exist in the Qld LEB due to the topography and hydrology that is specific to this region



<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	**	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	-		There is a widespread and strong view that stream diversions should not be permitted. Mineral and petroleum industry members of the CAC are less concerned.
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	N/A	*	
<b>Resources</b>	A		Needs to be accounted for effectively within the EA process specific for the LEB This is a mis-interpretation of the bill – it doesn't remove regulation, it makes it a condition of the EA. Cultural heritage surveys must be conducted prior to any new development.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	A		Requirements of Qld Cultural Heritage Act should be met
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	**	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A		
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*	But not as a way of preventing sustainable development
<b>Resources</b>	A		Usually required anyway under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003. Regulation should occur on a catchment basis. With differing levels of regulation
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A?		This can make it difficult for shires that have more than one basin.
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	A		
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	**	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A		Most members agree that catchments are a more appropriate unit for managing water and natural resources. Some members believe that mining regulation by the states and territories is adequate.
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	A with provisos	*	Cumulative impacts need to be accounted for and site specific impacts.
<b>Resources</b>	D		States control To provide clarity for the community, areas to which requirements apply should be mapped (similar to wild river high preservation area/special floodplain management area).
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	A		
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	**	Repeats as comment above
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A		Floodplains require protection for cultural as well as environmental reasons - they are known to contain Aboriginal sites of significance including burial grounds

<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*	Similar to but not WR definitions. Clarity is very important for community confidence.
<b>Resources</b>	D		NO - Attempt to retain HPA SFFA etc
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		Protection from mining impacts should extend to river system headwaters. Major tributaries are included in the current Wild Rivers Declaration and it should not be extended beyond that. Cannington Mine would not have been developed under this philosophy and this would have been a very negative outcome for the west.
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		Case by case
<b>CCCC</b>	A		
<b>GDCC</b>	A		**
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A		
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A		
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*	
<b>Resources</b>	D		Statutory regional planning processes should be used to apply conditions if possible.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	D		These instruments do not have the necessary legislative power to bind Minerals, Petroleum and Public Works act. We need stronger regulation
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	**	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A		However, statutory regional planning processes should not be the sole vehicle for conditions. Some members believe that management at a state level is more appropriate (i.e. it is the people's minerals belonging to the whole state, not just one region).
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	A with provisos	*	Regional plans have a role under this government in managing land use competition but we need to avoid duplication of regulation as occurred under Wild Rivers
<b>Resources</b>	D		NO – mining is managed at a state level (it is the people's minerals belonging to the whole state, not just one region – see comment about local government role. An immediate audit of all existing mines in the Queensland Lake Eyre Basin should be undertaken by the Queensland Government with a public report provided and that the audit should review the ability of mines to withstand 1/100 year rain events without discharging pollutants to watercourses.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		State Wide Agree with concept, but not with urgency
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	A		
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	**	Important to have this scientific information to gauge risk of pollution
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A		
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	N/A	*	This information should be contained in the mines EIS? What could be also interesting is how many have Temporary Emissions Licenses (TEs) and a capacity to

<b>Resources</b>	D	discharge when flows reach certain levels. To what purpose? If this relates to one or two specific circumstances, then this needs to be said. However it would be good to provide some data on number and types of mines in the catchment. The efficacy of remediation work undertaken on pollution events should be assessed and comment provided on pollutant levels over time and the long term condition of affected systems.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	Lady Annie Mine spill pollution still remains 4 years after the event and despite remediation work and flushing flows
GDCC	A	**
LEB SAP	A	Data are critical for informed management
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
<b>Resources</b>	A	Community need confidence that environmental risks are understood and can be managed This is part of normal EA and rehabilitation requirements.
<b>Resources</b>	A	It should be ensured that the Queensland Government has a mine spill response strategy detailing protocols and emergency measures for mine pollution events (learning from the lessons of the past (e.g. Lady Annie Mine 2009 and others in the North West mineral province)). Be consistent with potential hazards waste
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	**
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
<b>Resources</b>	A	Also refer to the Economic Development Bill which looked at TEL management. This is an area of concern for both point source and cumulative impacts Reasonable – although the government does have emergency response procedures for a range of matters. Also this is conditioned in standard EAs. Bonds obtained and retained from mining / petroleum and CSG owners operators should be adequate to cover the costs of pollution should it occur.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	**
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	D	
Agforce	A	*
<b>Resources</b>	A	This is one strategy but how to decide on a bond amount? This may be covered under the Mining Act. This is already the case but happy to consider improvements to the system.

			Government needs to undertake its monitoring, compliance and enforcement roles appropriately in relation to mining. Needs to be more independent testing which is done by a rotation of companies/observers and is available for comparison to the public Cost to be borne by industry involved
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
<b>NW LG</b>	-		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	A		
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A		**
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A		
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	A		* Transparently
<b>Resources</b>	A		
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		Monitoring should occur in close proximity to the mining operation. And also further downstream eg in permanent waterhole where contaminants may accumulate in low flow
<b>NW LG</b>	-		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	A		
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A		It is important to gather as much data as possible for informed decision-making about potential impacts to the environment ** <b>Important to add that not only adjacent but with potential to impact on aquatic areas (e.g. water quality)(applies to all points in this section)</b>
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A		Monitoring should ALSO occur as far away (e.g. downstream) from the mining operation as impacts could occur.
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	N/A		Monitoring should occur wherever there is a measurable environmental risk
<b>Resources</b>	A		* <b>“and on floodplains” (Applies to all points in this section)</b>
<b>Resources</b>	A		This is already part of standard EA conditions <b>Unconventional and Conventional Petroleum and Gas in and Adjacent to Aquatic Areas* and Unconventional Petroleum and Gas in the Broader Basin</b> Where there is not sufficient scientific understanding of the impacts of this industry (including the LEB) there should be a moratorium. Prior to allowing development there needs to be an availability of information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Hydrology of groundwater – pressures etc.</li> <li>o Impacts on the environment - conditional on no significant impact</li> <li>o Cessation of development if environmental impacts appear</li> <li>o Effective management of produced water and any salts Salinity impacts</li> <li>o Effective management of cumulative impacts</li> <li>o Greater confidence in 'make good' provisions – as yet to be proven.</li> </ul> This development should be closely monitors to gauge what can and can't be done research will need to be done together with testing.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	A		Would remove word “significant”. Precautionary approach needed as impacts may take years to turn up. Surat modelling by QWC estimates impacts could take 5 years to show

<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A		
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A		There is some divergence of view within the CAC – most agree with this; a minority express some reservations
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		*
<b>Agforce</b>	A		
<b>Resources</b>	D		The Queensland Government has in place a comprehensive regulatory regime for the petroleum and gas industry, both conventional and unconventional. This requires assessment of impacts upfront and approval from regulators prior to any work being undertaken. Depending on the nature of the proposed development, this could require an environmental impact statement (under either the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 or the Environmental Protection Act 1994) or an environmental authority under the Environmental Protection Act 1994. In either case, the proponent is required to fully assess impacts, including groundwater and brine, amongst others. These regulatory frameworks already include provisions for comprehensive monitoring of impacts and for regulators to intervene if impacts are not as expected. In extreme cases, this can include stopping work. The resource sector believes this existing regime is comprehensive and addresses the issues raised here.
			A risk-based rather than an adaptive management approach should be applied.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		An informed decision considering the cost and benefit of each proposal should be made with appropriate consideration to the environmental, economic and community outcomes.
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	A		Adaptive is too slow for the reasons given above
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A		
<b>LEB CAC</b>	-		Insufficient detail as to what is meant by these terms, and why they are presented as alternatives (e.g. a combination of both may be an option)
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	A		*
<b>Resources</b>	D		An adaptive management framework ensures a proponent achieves good environmental outcomes over time. The framework requires baseline studies and agreed management and mitigation measures that can be further refined as more information becomes available. Proponents can investigate impacts further, undertake targeted research and provide a management response that is appropriate for an impact while ensuring sufficient safe guards are in place to measure material impacts.
			What adaptive management requires proponents to do is be proactive in monitoring, minimising and managing their impacts within upper limits set by regulators. This is an appropriate way for regulating an industry such as conventional and unconventional petroleum and gas.
			CSG development has to be stringently regulated.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
<b>NW LG</b>	D		No more than any other development
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		ALL water tests on the public domain
<b>CCCC</b>	A		Agforce and RAPAD surveys demonstrate overwhelming community opposition to CSG in western Qld
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	N/A		This needs to apply to the potential impact on the river and its dependent ecosystems
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A		
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	A		*
<b>Resources</b>	D		As per above, the industry is already stringently regulated.
			The principles applicable to mining should apply broadly to Petroleum and Gas - no pollution etc.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		Should be the same across the board depending on the risk of environmental damage and the value of and area environmentally.
			Already in place
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		

DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	Provided this does not reduced the effectiveness of environmental regulation of Petroleum and Gas
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
Resources	A	No industry has no pollution. It's not clear what this would mean, no environmental harm is generally adopted as an industry principle, however the operations and therefore the risks are different and should be managed appropriately. Conventional Petroleum and Gas operations should be less regulated than unconventional operations (as they are of less concern). Already in place
RAPAD LG	D	
NW LG	D	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	D	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	This would be ok only if they adhere to the rules
LEB SAP	N/A	This should be a focus on the potential impact not the industry
LEB CAC	D	Regulation should be for potential impact, regardless of the industry. Conventional Petroleum and Gas operations are already highly regulated.
GDCAG	D	
Agforce	D	*
Resources	D	Regulation needs to be proportionate to risk – these are more understood and so represent a lower risk but not of less concern with respect to impacts The gas industry should be regulated with consistency and the type of regulation driven by the risks faced. Existing (pre wild rivers) requirements on operations are sufficient (activities were already limited through their environmental authorities - "limited petroleum activities"). I don't understand this one
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	D	
CCCC	D	
GDCC	A	Regulation is poor - hence broad community pushback and distrust
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	-	Insufficient detail to make a judgement – this section is also about unconventional gas, and there is a strong view in the CAC that existing requirements for unconventional gas are insufficient.
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	*
Resources	A	The purpose of the declaration was to "preserve the natural values of rivers that have all, or almost all, of their natural values intact". Oil and gas has been extracted in the Cooper Creek for 40 years, which still has all, or almost all, of its natural values intact. This demonstrates an ability to operate sustainably and that the current regulatory instruments are adequate. Groundwater systems in the LEB should be pre-mapped/ modelled prior to industry expansion to ensure impacts on groundwater are minimised.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	

LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
Resources	D	As part of ensuring adequate scientific understanding Groundwater systems are mapped based on current knowledge (and continue to be added to), and other regulatory instruments exist to address potential impacts to groundwater, see above comment on regulatory regime.
		Cumulative impacts on the Great Artesian Basin should not be allowed to occur.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	N/A	They should be measured and so there is a good database for decision-making
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
Resources	D	Must clarify the definition of a cumulative impact. Not clear what this means. General support for assessment of cumulative impacts/risk of cumulative impacts and measures to address unacceptable risks. The regulation of petroleum and gas should be rigorous Lake Eyre Basin wide. Should vary depending on zone
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	Has been ? has it not ?
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
Resources	A	The regulation of petroleum and gas should be rigorous wherever it occurs and the existing state regulatory regimes deliver on this outcome.
		There should be no CSG development in the basin (the risk to the Great Artesian Basin is too high).
RAPAD LG	D	There shouldn't be a blanket ban but miners have to demonstrate that their activities will not adversely impact the environmental sustainability of the basin Not to say that it should be not regulated There already is
NW LG	D	
SW LG	D	This is an unrealistic expectation.
DCQ	A	Fracking etc of great concern let alone the possible number of wells
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	N/A	This should only apply to areas where impacts may affect the hydrological system
LEB CAC	-	There is a range of views in the CAC on this issue. Some members agree, some disagree.
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	*

		This is the case under current knowledge levels but there is potential for it to be well understood and appropriately regulated. Need more confidence in the state assessment and regulatory system yet before that could occur.
<b>Resources</b>	D	The basis for decisions about appropriate activities in any location should be a scientific assessment of impacts by independent regulatory authorities. Petroleum and gas operations should be excluded from instream areas (including channels in the channel country).
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	D	There is demonstrate capacity for petroleum to be mined safely in watercourse, oceans etc.
<b>NW LG</b>	A	Go from or far?
<b>SW LG</b>	A	As per existing controls under the EP Act
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	And floodplains
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	If there is a potential to affect flow regimes
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	Most members agree that they should be excluded from associated floodplains also.
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*
<b>Resources</b>	D	Oil and gas has been extracted in the Cooper Creek for 40 years, which still has all, or almost all, of its natural values intact. This demonstrates an ability to operate sustainably and that the current regulatory instruments are adequate. Development should be well off the watercourse.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	D	Need definition of water course
<b>NW LG</b>	D	Depends on country
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*
<b>Resources</b>	D	Where activities (eg floodplain wells) can be undertaken with minimal acceptable impacts they should be allowed to continue, managed as per the existing regulatory regimes. Activities/infrastructure such as Major Facilities that have a larger footprint/potential for impact could not be conducted in a watercourse and therefore the current regulatory regime is fit for purpose. There should be a <exclusion> buffer zone around rivers and floodplains.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	D	Define floodplain. It could be 60km wide – is that what this question is about or has the term floodplain been used loosely
<b>NW LG</b>	N/A	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	Floodplains require protection for cultural as well as environmental reasons - they are known to contain Aboriginal sites of significance including burial grounds
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*
		Exclusions should be based on risk to the environment. The greatest risk is to aquifers. Keeping CSG away from rivers will also reduce the temptation for surface disposal of treated CSG water.



<b>Resources</b>	D	Where activities (eg floodplain wells) can be undertaken with minimal acceptable impacts they should be allowed to continue, managed as per the existing regulatory regimes. Activities/infrastructure such as Major Facilities that have a larger footprint/potential for impact could not be conducted in a watercourse and therefore the current regulatory regime is fit for purpose.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	D	Petroleum and Gas activities should not be authorised if they have the potential to reduce or interfere with natural flows (quantity, variability and quality) and flow paths, within watercourses, river channels, waterholes, wetlands and floodplains. Project should be considered on a case by case basis and approved if the miner can demonstrate that they have strategies in place to effectively manage the environmental issues.
<b>NW LG</b>	A	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	There is some divergence of view within the CAC – most agree with this; a minority express some reservations. Floodplains require protection for cultural as well as environmental reasons - they are known to contain Aboriginal sites of significance including burial grounds
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A with provisos	*
<b>Resources</b>	A	Given the relatively small footprint of a CSG well they may argue that the risk of flow impacts is low. Risk to water quality is greater. Some reduction or interference may be within a sustainable level. Existing regulatory regimes address this. The framework should ensure no impact from petroleum and gas activities.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	
<b>NW LG</b>	A	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	This should apply to rivers and their dependent ecosystems
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	Some members express the view that requiring 'no impact' is unrealistic
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	N/A	*
<b>Resources</b>	D	No impact is unreasonably restrictive as any activity will have an impact. No significant impact may be a more appropriate wording. There is no activity that has "no" impact. Existing agricultural activities have an impact. Tourism activities have an impact. The threshold test should be whether the impact is acceptable to regulatory agencies within the framework of environmental protection legislation.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	Particularly strong controls should apply to CSG, shale gas and shale oil activities.
<b>NW LG</b>	A	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	This should apply to rivers and their dependent ecosystems and controls on impacts, no different to other industries
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*

<b>Resources</b>	D	Risk appropriate controls should apply to these industries, and the existing framework is considered to deliver on this outcome.
		Maintenance of connectivity should be included in any development requirements.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	What does connectivity mean?
<b>NW LG</b>	A	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*
<b>Resources</b>	A	Addressed under existing framework.
		Natural flows must not be impacted by petroleum and gas operations.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	In the long term, short term disruptions may be appropriate.
		Conditional and to be minimal
<b>NW LG</b>	A	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	-	Unclear as to which streams this applies to. Some members express the view that requiring 'no impact' in all streams is unrealistic
		*
		"As above" -No impact is unreasonably restrictive as any activity will have an impact. No significant impact may be a more appropriate wording>.
<b>Resources</b>	A	Addressed under existing framework.
		Development requirements must include no pollution of the river systems.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	Particular attention needs to be paid to pipelines
		Or a measure that counteracts the externality employed
<b>NW LG</b>	A	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*
		This is a key factor.
<b>Resources</b>	A	Should be considered as part of the EIS / licensing process – project basis.
		What is 'no pollution' – is there an element of permanent effect meant to be part of this?
		For CSG, requirements must include no contamination of river or groundwater systems.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	Having in mind that a lot of the ground water is naturally contaminated with a diverse range of minerals and chemicals harmful to human and animal life
<b>NW LG</b>	A	A given
<b>SW LG</b>	A	A

DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
Resources	A	Guaranteed protection of groundwater systems is essential and should be a non-negotiable. Addressed under existing framework.
RAPAD LG	A	Specifications for CSG bores should be consistent with specifications for water bores.
NW LG	D	Why not more stringent?
SW LG	A	Should be higher
DCQ	A	Test holes now are –am I correct?
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	N/A	
LEB CAC	-	Insufficient details provided to make a judgement.
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	*
Resources	D	The specifications should be such as to ensure no contamination. Same or better specifications. Do water bores ever fail? If so then those specs may not be appropriate for CSG bores. There is a code for conversion of CSG to water bores that applied from 1 January 2012. Requirements for gas wells are considerably more stringent than requirements for water bores. Should standards for water bores should be raised to meet gas well standards? The potential impacts of "co-produced water" (from CSG operations) on riverine ecosystems should be considered in the approval process.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	Co-produced water must not be disposed of into an arid river system.
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
Resources	A	Also the potential disposal of both beneficial treated water as well as the brine and salt wastes as these are significant and there may be fewer cost-effective options in the LEB compared to further east. Addressed under existing framework. Approval of "beneficial use of water" should be based on a sound understanding of impacts on ecology/environment.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	It is critical to understand the potential impact on also on flow regimes

LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
Resources	A	And proven options available. Addressed under existing framework.
RAPAD LG	A	For CSG, water monitoring requirements must be standardised and transparent (all water testing information should be publicly accessible).
NW LG	A	Independent testing should be done with observers
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	Yes, yes, yes
CCCC	A	Also chemicals used should be disclosed
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
Resources	A	Already delivered on this, with all water monitoring data publicly available, Santos site is at <a href="http://www.santoswaterportal.com.au">www.santoswaterportal.com.au</a> .
RAPAD LG	A	Enforcement and compliance monitoring is necessary.
NW LG	-	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	
Resources	A	Addressed under existing framework. The government should be undertaking data collection for water monitoring. Must be independent
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	-	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	Gallilee Basin Ops data collection is like putting the fox in charge of the hen run. Gov't data collection in Surat why not here???
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
Resources	D	Monitoring is an industry responsibility. Regulators receive all the water monitoring data from proponents. Results of all water testing for CSG development should be made public.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	-	
SW LG	A	

DCQ	A	All tests
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
Resources	A	Already delivered on this, with all water monitoring data publicly available, Santos site is at <a href="http://www.santoswaterportal.com.au">www.santoswaterportal.com.au</a> . Protection from petroleum and gas should extend to river system headwaters. State wide
RAPAD LG	D	
NW LG		
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	The link needs to be made to the potential to impact on flow regimes
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
Resources	A	Unless science indicates the risks are negligible or manageable. Not adaptive management. Addressed under existing framework. Alternative strategies should take precedence over decisions made under the petroleum act.
RAPAD LG	A	All legislation should be consistent
NW LG	D	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	Plus Minerals and Public Works acts
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	This refers to where there would be a negative impact
LEB CAC	A	There is some divergence of view within the CAC – most agree with this; a minority express some reservations
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	-	*
Resources	D	Should be included into the P&G Act as one of the relevant Acts. Also Waste disposal and recycling Act, Water Act etc. Oil and gas has been extracted in the Cooper Creek for 40 years, which still has all, or almost all, of its natural values intact. This demonstrates an ability to operate sustainably and that the current regulatory instruments are adequate. Decisions made under the alternative strategies should not be able to be overridden by the Coordinator-General. Process should be robust such that this is not required.
RAPAD LG	D	
NW LG	D	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	This refers to where there would be a negative impact
LEB CAC	A	More clarity needed on the Coordinator General's role. Most members believe that the Coordinator General would only overrule the strategy in favour of development and at the expense of the Basin environment. Some members feel that Coordinator General review would be a benefit, and that one aspect cannot be singled out.
GDCAG	A	

Agforce	D	* "and floodplains" (this applies to all points in this section). Placing the protections within other existing Acts means they are subject to Coordinator General decisions.
Resources	D	The Coordinator-General assessment process involves comprehensive analysis of potential impacts prior to any approval. For example, recent coal seam gas projects in Queensland took three and a half years to be approved and involved nearly 20,000 pages of assessment material. Following consideration of this material, the Coordinator-General approved the project with nearly 1,200 conditions and requirements to gain further licences and approvals from other regulatory agencies. It is hard to see how any "alternative strategy" could be so comprehensive.
		<b>Major Weirs ***</b>
RAPAD LG	D	Weirs should only be allowed to be developed for the purpose of providing town water supplies.
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	***
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	Multiple purposes might be appropriate to maximise the value and feasibility of an infrastructure investment.
Resources	A	
RAPAD LG	D	Weirs should not be allowed to be developed for industrial development purposes.
NW LG	-	Does this include industrial developments in town areas?
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	***
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	Impacts should be appropriately regulated but not a blanket ban applied.
Resources	D	
RAPAD LG	A	Requirements under existing water resource planning processes are adequate to regulate the development of weirs.
NW LG	A	I assume so
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	Believe so
CCCC	D	Minerals and Public Works acts can over-ride Water Act therefor alt. strategy needs to be binding on these acts
GDCC	A	***
LEB SAP	D	It is not clear what is defined by a major weir and this has relevance to the type of assessment
LEB CAC	D	The CAC supports the prohibition of new waterway barriers such as dams and weirs (other than for existing works and for town water supplies) in key areas like major streams and floodplains.
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	Other Acts also involved

<b>Resources</b>	A		
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		Future changes to regulatory frameworks (non wild rivers) should not reduce river protection in relation to major weirs from pre wild rivers standards.
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	A		
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A		***
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A		
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	A		
<b>Resources</b>	A		
			For the purposes of alternative strategy development "major weirs" should be considered as weirs larger than those currently in place in the basin.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	D		A major weir should be determined in relation to the impact that the interruption to flow cause by the weir relative to the total flows in the system
<b>NW LG</b>	A		Except if towns grow
<b>SW LG</b>	D		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	A		
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	D		***
			There may be significant weirs that are smaller than those in place which could have a major impact
<b>LEB CAC</b>	N/A		Constraints should be determined based on impact not rules of thumb
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	D		
<b>Resources</b>	A		
			Major weirs for the purposes of the development of alternative strategies should include weirs of similar size to existing weirs for town water supplies.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	A		
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	D		***
			All weirs should be assessed for environmental impact
<b>LEB CAC</b>	N/A		Constraints should be determined based on impact not rules of thumb
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	A		
<b>Resources</b>	A		
			An Environmental Impact Statement should be required for the construction of any major weir.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	A		
<b>GDCC</b>	A		

LEB SAP	A	***	
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	D	Should fall within the WRP requirements for assessment around ecological outcomes	
Resources	A		
Watercourses not listed as "protected watercourses" in current water resource plans should also be protected from major weir development.			
RAPAD LG	A	Impact assessable	
NW LG	A		
SW LG	A		
DCQ	A		
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A	***	
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	D	Too prescriptive.	
Resources	A		
There should be limitations on the total number of major weirs in the Lake Eyre Basin.			
RAPAD LG	A	This should be location and catchment based as well	
NW LG	A	Flows need to be managed and the number of weirs needs to be relative to the capacity of the system to maintain sound environmental flows	
SW LG	A	Town water supplies	
DCQ	A		
CCCC	A		
GDCC	D	Not if being used for Town water	
LEB SAP	A	***	
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	D	Should be in line with the identified sustainable take of water	
Resources	A		
Limitations on weir development should continue to be addressed through the volumes of unallocated water available though the water resource plans.			
RAPAD LG	A	By unallocated, does this mean yield below expectation?	
NW LG	A		
SW LG	A		
DCQ	A		
CCCC	D	Should also be regulated under the alternative strategy	
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	D	***	
There are other impacts of weirs that are not necessarily related to water plans (e.g connectivity)			
LEB CAC	D	Water allocation provisions alone may be insufficient to regulate the impact of weir development.	
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	A		
Resources	A		
Any new weirs should be inside the banks of the waterway with the top of the weir level or below the top of the bank - not above/higher than the top of the bank <i.e. no dams>.			
RAPAD LG	D	What about for urban population	



NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	N/A	*** Should relate to the level of the impact Constraints should be determined based on impact not rules of thumb
LEB CAC	N/A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	This section is not about dams.
Resources	A	
RAPAD LG	A	Any approval process should include consideration of downstream impacts and long term river sustainability.
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	*** Important for assessment of impacts
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	This is in the WRP and ROP process
Resources	A	
RAPAD LG	A	Adequate volumes of water for town water supply should be made available to accommodate future population growth. Alternate supply option should be researched. Evaporation on the river system remains the major issue
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	***
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A with provisos	As population growth approaches the tipping point not years before it is needed.
Resources	A	
RAPAD LG	A	Any weir development should have cultural heritage clearance under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act. The need of a community for water should however outweigh the need to protect Aboriginal Environmental Heritage.
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	

LEB SAP	A	*** Not clear what constitutes a major weir (applies to all points in this section)
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	Think this is currently the case under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act?
Resources	A	
<b>Small Scale Irrigated Agriculture Adjacent to Aquatic Areas*</b>		
RAPAD LG	A	The four large sleeper licences on the Cooper should be retired. Should be part of a buy back regime
NW LG	A	
SW LG	D	Should be retired or relocated upstream in smaller licences
DCQ	-	How??
CCCC	A	
GDCC	-	
LEB SAP	A	Dependent on their potential impact on the system
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	* No removal of a legal right without compensation
Resources	**	
<b>Large Scale Irrigated Agriculture Adjacent to Aquatic Areas*</b>		
RAPAD LG	A	Government should buy back sleeper licences and not reallocate this water. This needs to be assessed on the basis of demand and what environmental flows are necessary.
NW LG	D	
SW LG	A?	Govt has already tried without success
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	D	
LEB SAP	N/A	A decision for government
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	* Govt should buyback voluntarily if possible but look at making the water tradable within sustainable take levels for different parts of the catchment
Resources	**	
<b>Small Scale Irrigated Agriculture Adjacent to Aquatic Areas*</b>		
RAPAD LG	D	No further irrigation development should be allowed in the Cooper catchment. Needs to be considered on a case by case basis. No large scale irrigation using river water be allowed no restriction on other water supplies
NW LG	D	
SW LG	A?	No more than the existing (pre-wild rivers) water allocations for irrigation.
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	

LEB SAP	A	Increased development will lead to changes in flow regime downstream
LEB CAC	A	The CAC believes the Lake Eyre Basin river systems are fundamentally unsuitable for irrigated agriculture
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	*
Resources	**	No further water releases but potentially new areas could be sustainably developed.
RAPAD LG	D	No new irrigation licences in the LEB (any new irrigation will set a new precedent which will open the door to irrigation expansion). Small scale irrigation for own use fodder/market garden possible Needs to be considered on a case by case basis.
NW LG	D	
SW LG	A?	No extra irrigation licences to be allocated.
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	Increased development will lead to changes in flow regime downstream
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	*
Resources	A**	Licenses (old and new) should be within the sustainable take of water – no new water released. See WRP and ROP.
RAPAD LG	D	There should be no escalation of irrigation or increase in the unallocated water reserves set out in the existing water resource plans (for irrigation). Needs to be considered on a case by case basis. More land irrigated for the same allocations – restrictions in better water management should not be penalised
NW LG	D	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	Increased development will lead to changes in flow regime downstream
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
Resources	A**	Allocation of water should be done on a scientifically determined basis for the sustainable level of take including reserves. Should look to use existing licenses more efficiently first. Existing WRPs are reviewed periodically, hopefully with better knowledge than before.
RAPAD LG	A	Irrigation should not be authorised if it has the potential to reduce or interfere with natural flows (quantity, variability and quality) and flow paths, within watercourses, river channels, waterholes, wetlands and floodplains Needs to be considered on a case by case basis in the context of the whole basin needs. Impact assessable
NW LG	D	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	Increased development will lead to changes in flow regime downstream

LEB CAC	A	Floodplains require protection for cultural as well as environmental reasons - they are known to contain Aboriginal sites of significance including burial grounds
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	*
Resources	**	Some reduction or interference may be within a sustainable level
		No further irrigation developments (including 'small-scale') should be allowed, whether from surface or groundwater, that reduces the flow, especially impacting on waterhole ecosystems, floodplains and wetlands (e.g. Lake Eyre) throughout the catchment to South Australia.
RAPAD LG	D	
NW LG	D	
SW LG	D	If there are existing legal licences people have to be allowed to use them or sell them as long as they meet all the restrictions.
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	Increased development will lead to changes in flow regime downstream
LEB CAC	A	The CAC believes the Lake Eyre Basin river systems are fundamentally unsuitable for irrigated agriculture. Floodplains in particular require protection for cultural as well as environmental reasons - they are known to contain Aboriginal sites of significance including burial grounds
GDCAG	A	*
Agforce	D	Some reduction or interference may be within a sustainable level, e.g. small scale irrigation for own use
Resources	**	
		Any proposal should not impact on the river systems.
RAPAD LG	A	The overall health of the systems need to be maintained and managed so that some water can be used for economic develop at the northern end of the basin.
NW LG	D	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	Increased development will lead to changes in flow regime downstream
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	*
Resources	**	This is an absolute statement and not practical
		Rivers throughout the whole Lake Eyre Basin (not just in QLD) must retain free flowing integrity long term.
RAPAD LG	A	Note that rivers are variable in their natural flow and are dry for significant periods
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	This is articulated in the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement
LEB CAC	A	This is fundamental to the LEB Intergovernmental Agreement
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
Resources	**	

<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A				The rights of existing water licence holders must be recognised.
<b>NW LG</b>	A				Not the big sleepers on the Cooper
<b>SW LG</b>	A				
<b>DCQ</b>	A				
<b>CCCC</b>	A				No expansion of irrigation
<b>GDCC</b>	A				
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A				
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A				
<b>GDCAG</b>	A				
<b>Agforce</b>	A			*	
<b>Resources</b>	**				
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A				400ML should be the maximum volume to be considered 'small-scale'. This should be considered on a case by case basis in the context of the needs of the whole basin. Water needs to be shared equitably and fairly in and environmentally sustainable way. Further investigation required It should be capped lower in my view
<b>NW LG</b>	D				Not enough for a sustainable farm
<b>SW LG</b>	D				Best advice is that 1600ML is required to irrigate 100Ha which is probably the absolute minimum area to be worth doing.
<b>DCQ</b>	D				
<b>CCCC</b>	D				No expansion of irrigation
<b>GDCC</b>	A				
<b>LEB SAP</b>	D				The critical issue is the impact on the ecosystems at small and large scales and this should be assessed
<b>LEB CAC</b>	N/A				
<b>GDCAG</b>	A				
<b>Agforce</b>	D			*	The key element is to manage the environmental impacts.
<b>Resources</b>	**				
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A				Any "new" water licences for irrigation should be limited to a maximum of 1600ML, with volumes above this not considered relevant to discussions about "small scale" irrigation. As above Further investigation required Cap should be lower
<b>NW LG</b>	A				
<b>SW LG</b>	A				
<b>DCQ</b>	D				
<b>CCCC</b>	D				No expansion of irrigation
<b>GDCC</b>	A				
<b>LEB SAP</b>	D				Increased development will lead to changes in flow regime downstream which is contrary to the Lake Eye Basin Agreement
<b>LEB CAC</b>	N/A				
<b>GDCAG</b>	D				
<b>Agforce</b>	N/A			*	AgForce support small scale irrigation development, the scale of which should be determined by Government and the community using a science based approach such as through the ROP process. We do not have a prescriptive policy position on this question. AgForce supports trading of current licenses to allow for small scale irrigation

		development. Trading rules should not result in significant downstream user or environmental impacts or result in more water being taken from the system. Restrictions on trading may be subject to ACCC approval.
<b>Resources</b>	**	
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	Irrigation licences should remain attached to land.
<b>NW LG</b>	A	What if a neighbour gets wiped out and wants to trade his entitlement?
<b>SW LG</b>	D	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	D	No expansion of irrigation
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	N/A	There is agreement to allow trade but it should ensure no adverse environmental or hydrological impacts
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	The CAC agrees that trading water licences between areas of the catchment is undesirable.
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	D	*
		Licenses should be tradeable so the water can go to where it is wanted but should be subject to an 'ecological impact' conversion factor if moving across trading zones.
<b>Resources</b>	**	
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	D	Any irrigation licence would have to attach to parcels of land greater than 100ha.
<b>NW LG</b>	A/D	What about a hobby farmer with 10 acres?
<b>SW LG</b>	A	Unless for particular purposes
<b>DCQ</b>	D	
<b>CCCC</b>	-	No expansion of irrigation
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	N/A	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	N/A	
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	D	*
<b>Resources</b>	**	
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	Low flows should be maintained.
<b>NW LG</b>	-	Flows should be maintained at a standard that maintains the overall health of the system
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	This is critical
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	These are particularly critical for waterholes, the refugia in the system. These also depend on the where flows are measured. A high flow in the top of the system is likely to be a low flow in the bottom of the system
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*
		Harvesting rules should protect these low and first run flows.
<b>Resources</b>	**	
		First run flows should be protected.
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	
<b>NW LG</b>	A	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	

DCQ	A		
CCCC	A	This is critical	
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	D	Note comments above – all flows need to be protected	
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A	*	
Agforce	A		
Resources	**		
Fertilisers from irrigated agriculture should not be allowed to enter the river systems.			
RAPAD LG	A		
NW LG	-		
SW LG	A		
DCQ	A		
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A	This can lead to increased nutrients affecting river and biodiversity health	
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	A	*	
		Potentially managed through a BMP process.	
Resources	A**		
Consideration should be given to impacts from the incidental capture of overland flow water resulting from construction of levees etc. i.e. water that is additional to volumes of water licensed to be extracted from watercourses.			
RAPAD LG	A	Capture of run off from irrigated area should not be included however virgin water from outside area may be considered	
NW LG	-		
SW LG	A		
DCQ	A		
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A	There is widespread evidence in the Murray-Darling Basin that once access is obtained to water through a licence, there is additional development to capture local or floodplain flows.	
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	D	*	
		This could be applied to stock and domestic capture. The new Land, Water and Other Amendment Bill sets up a framework for the regulation of levees that will deal with downstream impacts. It does not include structures for storing water.	
Resources	**		
Water storage should be provided for if irrigation is allowed/ encouraged.			
RAPAD LG	A		
NW LG	A		
SW LG	A		
DCQ	D	Opportunity only	
CCCC	D	No expansion of irrigation	
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	D	This can increase the take from the river and also alter the connectivity on the floodplain	
LEB CAC	D		

GDCAG	D		
Agforce	A	*	
Resources	**		
Water storages should not be allowed on floodplains.			
RAPAD LG	D		
NW LG	-		
SW LG	A		
DCQ	A		
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A	See above	
LEB CAC	A	Floodplains require protection for cultural as well as environmental reasons - they are known to contain Aboriginal sites of significance including burial grounds	
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	D	*	
Resources	**		There are examples of setting up floodplain storages that minimise environmental impacts and the footprint of a storage to minimise flow disturbance.
Water storage should only be allowed off the floodplain.			
RAPAD LG	D		Impact can be limited by size and location for stock and domestic
NW LG	D		
SW LG	A		
DCQ	A		
CCCC	D		No expansion of irrigation
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A		
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	D	*	
Resources	**		No changes should be made to the water resource plans for the basin as there is no commercial demand for further irrigation.
RAPAD LG	D		Have to have strong plan in place to discourage irrigation
NW LG	D		This has to be proven
SW LG	A		
DCQ	A		
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A		
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	D	*	
Resources	A**		There is ongoing enquiry but the volumes are currently low – this may not be the case in the future.
Any decisions on 'sleepers' should be deferred until the water resource plans are due for renewal.			
RAPAD LG	D		The sooner the better
NW LG	D		
SW LG	A?		Would agree if no other solution is found



DCQ	-	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	D	
LEB SAP	A	See comments above about increased take from the river
LEB CAC	AA	
GDCAG	D	
Agforce	D	*
Resources	A**	The current ROP development may open the way for the sleeper licenses to be traded.
RAPAD LG	D	Aggregation of licences should not be allowed.
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	No expansion of irrigation
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	This can lead to increased impacts on the floodplain and also increased development affecting connectivity
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	*
Resources	A**	Aggregation up to a volume limit within a trading zone so no significant downstream user or environmental impacts occur and no increase in total take of water. There may be situations where accumulation, within the limits of water available within a zone, could give a more sustainable result with respect to environmental, social and economic outcomes. The key element is to manage the environmental impacts.
RAPAD LG	A	Impacts from aggregation of water licences should be considered as part of approval processes.
NW LG	N/A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	D	No expansion of irrigation
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	See above
LEB CAC	N/A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	*
Resources	A**	A reserve of water available for irrigation should be kept for distribution as "small parcels".
RAPAD LG	A	This is catered for in the GD ROP with A and B allocations
NW LG	-	Should be consider both on a needs basis and what is required for environmental flows
SW LG	A	Maybe but must be carefully considered
DCQ	A	
CCCC	D	No expansion of irrigation
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	D	It is not clear how this would be governed
LEB CAC	-	Insufficient detail on the purposes for which this water would be used and the size of 'small parcels'

<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	A/D	*	According to applicable WRP.
<b>Resources</b>	**		
An adaptive trading regime should be implemented.			
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
<b>NW LG</b>	A		Only within zones
<b>SW LG</b>	A		
<b>DCQ</b>	-		Meaning??
<b>CCCC</b>	D		No expansion of irrigation - this is a desert river system
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	N/A		This will depend on whether a market is created and there is sufficient demand
<b>LEB CAC</b>	-		The CAC agrees that trading water licences between areas of the catchment is undesirable.
<b>GDCAG</b>	D		
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*	
<b>Resources</b>	**		
If licences are to be tradeable it should not be possible for these to be purchased for conservation purposes.			
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	D		
<b>NW LG</b>	A		
<b>SW LG</b>	D		
<b>DCQ</b>	-		
<b>CCCC</b>	D		That is not consistent with a free market
<b>GDCC</b>	A		
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A		It is not clear that a distinction can be made on the type of purchaser under any legislation
<b>LEB CAC</b>	-		The CAC agrees that trading water licences between areas of the catchment is undesirable.
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*	These are licenses for irrigation.
<b>Resources</b>	**		
Any trading regime" should consider that existing licences have been modelled with reference to their location on the river system - due to differing water supply reliability, an allocation in the lower end of the system provides for different opportunities to take water compared to a similar allocation higher up the system - e.g. the opportunity to take a particular volume in the lower system may occur once every 10 years, whereas in the upper part of the system this opportunity may occur every second year, then effectively a similar allocation provides for five times as much water to be extracted at the upper end of the system than from the lower end of the system.			
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		Water trading should not be permitted
<b>NW LG</b>	A		Needs to be considered on a basin wide bas and needs to be fair and equitable.
<b>SW LG</b>	A		We do not want to close the gate on small scale irrigation
<b>DCQ</b>	A		
<b>CCCC</b>	D		
<b>GDCC</b>	A		This is not rational, the reverse is probably true when modelled
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A		This means that any transfer of licences needs to properly account for reliability. Licences moving from the lower parts of the catchment need to have reductions in volume as the move to upper parts of the catchment because their reliability increases (i.e. the take of water). This needs to be appropriately modelled.
<b>LEB CAC</b>	-		The CAC agrees that trading water licences between areas of the catchment is undesirable.
<b>GDCAG</b>	A		
<b>Agforce</b>	A	*	Need to account for impacts of water removal at the point within the catchment where it is withdrawn. If volumes are moving within the catchment then this needs to be

		addressed objectively. If the science doesn't exist then this should be collected. It should be a triple bottom line examination not just ecological.
<b>Resources</b>	A**	
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	If transferring irrigation water allocations up the system, volumes available for extraction must be reduced and flow thresholds for extraction must be higher. Consideration given for evaporation
<b>NW LG</b>	-	
<b>SW LG</b>	A?	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	No expansion of irrigation
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	See comment above
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	D	* Take allowable must be sustainable and models are available to look at different scenarios. Accounted for in trading rules.
<b>Resources</b>	**	
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	There should be an assessment of how implementation at different sites would impact on hydrology and ecology, and on cultural and economic factors. Who would Assess?
<b>NW LG</b>	A	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	Impossible to make rational or informed recommendations based on no data or science
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	
<b>LEB CAC</b>	-	Given uncertainty about the scale of the impact and effects at local and downstream scale, it is critical that such impacts are assessed. Insufficient detail to make a judgement (implementation of what?)
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A	* This statement is preferable to the preceding one.
<b>Resources</b>	A**	
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	A system of 'zones' should be established and a limit placed on the volume of water that can be used for irrigation in each zone. The GD does this There are many types of irrigation and many different plants and trees that can be irrigated each should be evaluated on an individual basis
<b>NW LG</b>	A	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	Already done???
<b>CCCC</b>	A	No expansion of irrigation
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	This is current practice to assist in the management of a complex issue
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	For existing irrigation. The Lake Eyre Basin river systems are unsuitable for further irrigated agriculture
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A	* Use of water should be sustainable and impacts managed, i.e. a relevant sustainable limit. Prescriptive zones may not give the best overall environmental outcome. Zones should be administratively simple.
<b>Resources</b>	**	
		Any 'break-up' of large 'sleeper' licences should ensure that the existing conditions continue to apply.

RAPAD LG	D	Large licences should be extinguished New conditions need to apply
NW LG	-	Need to know more
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	D	No expansion of irrigation
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	D	This is not the case as articulated in all of the comments above in relation to movement of water to different parts of the catchment
LEB CAC	-	Insufficient detail on existing conditions to make a judgement
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	* Once down at a small scale irrigation level should be subject to the same conditions as other users. Break-up must be voluntary not compulsory.
Resources	**	
RAPAD LG	A	Cumulative impacts of irrigation need to be considered.
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	This is critical and should be done at different scales, local to catchment.
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	* Done in WRP.
Resources	A**	
RAPAD LG	A	Maintaining connectivity should be included as a development requirement.
NW LG	A	What does this mean?
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	Much of the flow in this system moves across the floodplains and often re-enters the river downstream and so connectivity is critical
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A with provisos	* Not overly restrictive. Within the WRP.
Resources	A**	
RAPAD LG	D	There should be a <exclusion> buffer zone for irrigated agriculture.
NW LG	-	What does this mean?
SW LG	A	Not sure what is meant
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	

LEB SAP	A	It is not clear what this applies to in relation to channel or floodplain. Needs to be more specific.
LEB CAC	A	More detail needed
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	* "and on floodplains (applies to all points in this section)
Resources	**	** This section not a Resources sector issue or area of expertise. Have included some comments to a few only. <b>Industrial Developments Adjacent to Aquatic Areas* **</b>
		A catchment wide approach to regulation of this industry is required.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	N/A	*
LEB CAC	-	Insufficient detail – Which industry?
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	**
Resources	D	Issue is state matter A "high bar" is needed on Environmentally Relevant Activities (ERAs) that involve contaminants.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	* It is assumed that these are already identified as potentially deleterious contaminants
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	**
Resources	A	A "risk based approach" is appropriate – with the intensity of regulation being consistent with the scale of the activity.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	* Sometimes, it is not clear what the risk may be for some contaminants until some time afterwards. This needs to be taken into consideration.
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	**
Resources	A	Any new strategy should reflect the wild rivers approach to the regulation of industrial development.

RAPAD LG	D	
NW LG	D	
SW LG	D	As long as the regulation meets all pre-existing acts.
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	* This adequately considered the potential impacts on river ecosystems
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	**
Resources	D	Existing processes
RAPAD LG	A	"Aquatic areas" (as identified in survey) should include floodplains.
NW LG	D	If depends, the Georgina Floodplain could be 60km wide
SW LG	A?	Depends on what regulations apply to "Aquatic areas"
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	*
LEB CAC	A	Floodplains require protection for cultural as well as environmental reasons - they are known to contain Aboriginal sites of significance including burial grounds
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	** Floodplains are not permanently covered in water and so would not think that they qualify as an 'aquatic area' - need an individually relevant definition
Resources	D	Protection from the impacts of industrial development should extend to the headwaters.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	*
LEB CAC	A	If they are specifically affecting the headwaters
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	** Minimise impacts
Resources	A	Cultural heritage surveys must be conducted prior to any new development.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	

SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	*
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	**
Agforce	A	Where development new and damaging to potential heritage.
Resources	A	Authorisations for industrial developments should ensure that there is no risk of river pollution.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	* Again – this needs to be relevant to the focus of the committee (i.e. river and river dependent ecosystems)
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	**
Resources	D	Never no risk – define pollution Authorisations for industrial developments should ensure that there is no risk of impacts on flows.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	* See earlier comments
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	** Again absolute statement, some impacts may be sustainable. Cumulative impacts need consideration. Never no risk
Resources	D	Maintenance of connectivity should be included in any development requirements.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	* The concern is potential impact here on river ecosystems and their dependent wetlands and floodplains (applies to all points in this section) See earlier comments

LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	A	** "and on floodplains" (applies to all points in this section)	
Resources	A		
<b>Large Scale Overland Flow Storages Adjacent to Aquatic Areas*</b>			
RAPAD LG	D	This type of development <large scale overland flow storages> should not be permitted in the basin.	
NW LG	-	What if it is large for urban populations?	
SW LG	A	Depends on what is meant by large scale	
DCQ	A		
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A	Elsewhere, these storages have been shown to alter flow regimes and also affect connectivity of the floodplain. It is not clear what is defined by 'large' which could be quantified in terms of volume and/ or area.	
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG			
Agforce	D	*	
Resources	A	AgForce member survey showed less than 20% in favour of prohibition in or out of watercourses	
<b>Overland flow storage for stock and domestic and for town water supply must be permitted.</b>			
RAPAD LG	A	Water storage for stock and domestic under an agreed size and location should not be regulated	
NW LG	A		
SW LG	A		
DCQ	A		
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A		
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	A	*	
Resources	A	This is a right.	
<b>Overland flow storage for industrial purposes should not be permitted on floodplains.</b>			
RAPAD LG	A	Need to investigate again in scale	
NW LG	-	It depends	
SW LG	A		
DCQ	A		
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A		
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A		



<b>Agforce</b>	D	* 50-70% members surveyed in favour of regulation not prohibition. Need to prohibit the impacts not the activity.
<b>Resources</b>	A	
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	Large overland flow storage structures should not be permitted on floodplains in the Georgina and Diamantina basins and in the Cooper Creek basin. Scale?
<b>NW LG</b>	-	(Cooper) Depends what is meant by large scale
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	Need to define large
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	See above
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	Floodplains require protection for cultural as well as environmental reasons - they are known to contain Aboriginal sites of significance including burial grounds
<b>GDCAG</b>		
<b>Agforce</b>	D	* Less than 20% of respondents wanted this prohibited so regulation may be better response. ie. Must not unduly interfere with flows etc.
<b>Resources</b>	A	
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	The alternative strategy should incorporate recognition that taking overland flow water is** a particular problem in floodplain rivers. What if for urban populations?
<b>NW LG</b>	A	
<b>SW LG</b>	A	
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	A	Considerable loss of unquantified flow has occurred throughout the Murray-Darling Basin where overland flow can be diverted
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A with provisos	* **"may be" There are issues in the Lower Balonne with levee banks moving floodplain water and downstream impacts. Must not extend to stock and domestic take.
<b>Resources</b>	D	
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A	It should be ensured that limitations on the take of overland flow water are effective (limiting the volumes taken through limiting the size of the "works" may not be effective as greater volumes can be taken over time due to water use and continued inflows).
<b>NW LG</b>	A	Positioning of the take point to where it will only fill in high flow events will minimise impact of multiple fills especially if the size of the construction is small.
<b>SW LG</b>	A	Limit by storage size
<b>DCQ</b>	A	
<b>CCCC</b>	A	
<b>GDCC</b>	A	
<b>LEB SAP</b>	D	This is predicated on an understanding of the impact on the river and its floodplains. This work needs to be done first.
<b>LEB CAC</b>	A	
<b>GDCAG</b>	A	
<b>Agforce</b>	A	* Take must be sustainable and not unduly impact on flows etc. This is in the WRP.
<b>Resources</b>	D	Has to authorise take for the purpose of meeting EA conditions. "Small scale" take of overland flow should not be permitted to grow to large scale over time.

RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	Depends on class small scale
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	This has become a particularly problem in many similar rivers in the Murray-Darling Basin
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	N/A	* Should fit within the regulatory regime of the WRP. But has to authorise take for the purpose of meeting EA conditions.
Resources	A	The Water Resource Plans do not currently adequately address impacts from overland flow developments.
RAPAD LG	A	I do not know
NW LG	D	
SW LG	A?	
DCQ	-	Don't they??
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	There still appear to be uncertainties in terms of access to overland flow developments
LEB CAC	N/A	Insufficient data exist (e.g. audit of current overland flow works in the catchment such as levee banks, dams, weirs) to allow accurate assessment of the impact of overland flow developments on dry spell duration and on the persistence of waterholes
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	* What evidence is there to the contrary?
Resources	A	Requirements in the Wild Rivers Code regarding overland flow storages should be reflected in applicable Water Act Codes to ensure ecological/ environmental outcomes are addressed. I would have to read the Code first to answer accurately
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	These allowed for adequate protection
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	* <b>“and floodplains” (applies to all points in this section)</b> The point is to remove the Code, not simply replace it under another name.
Resources	D	<b>In-stream Quarry Material Extraction</b> The (non wild rivers) requirements currently applied through the Water Act, Sustainable Planning Act, and Environmental Protection Act etc provide sufficient regulation of this industry.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	

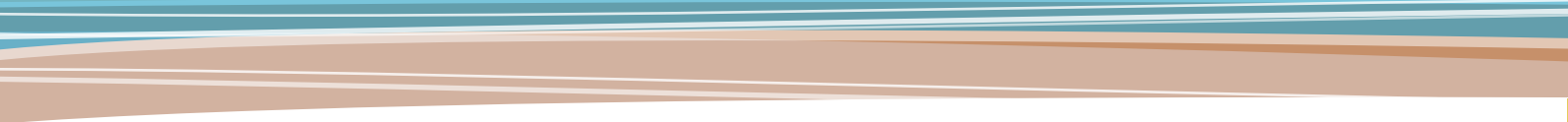
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	D	It is clear from WRAP discussions that there is insufficient protection by current legislation	
LEB CAC	D		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	A		
Resources	A		
Regulation of sand and gravel extraction should continue to be regulated as it was prior to wild river declarations.			
RAPAD LG	A		
NW LG	A		
SW LG	A		
DCQ	A		
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A		
LEB CAC	-	Pre-Wild River provisions are believed to have been insufficient	
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	A		
Resources	A		
There should be no sand and gravel extraction from rivers.			
RAPAD LG	D		
NW LG	D		
SW LG	D	Depends on the circumstances.	
DCQ	D		
CCCC	D		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	N/A	Limited extraction should be possible	
LEB CAC	-	Divergent views in the CAC	
GDCAG	D		
Agforce	D	Regulated and sustainable take only	
Resources	D		
There should be limits / caps on the amount of take of material from designated areas. Some areas could be nominated as not suitable for taking sand and gravel particularly if a more acceptable alternative can be found nearby			
RAPAD LG	A		
NW LG	A		
SW LG	A		
DCQ	A		
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A		
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	A		
Resources	A		
Access to quarry material at the site of use should be ensured. This is too loose Provide all protection is followed			
RAPAD LG	A		
NW LG	A		

SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	N/A	Unsure of the meaning of this
LEB CAC	-	Insufficient detail
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	-	Meaning unclear
Resources	D	Refer next
Regulation should be based on the sustainability of extraction rather than where the material can be used.		
RAPAD LG	A	Some areas where extraction occurs are replenished after a flow, monitoring required
NW LG	A	
SW LG	A	
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	Also the environmental impact needs to be assessed
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	
Resources	A	
There should be open access to sand and gravel for Local Government.		
RAPAD LG		From existing pits and for extractions below a threshold meterage and for normal LG activities.
NW LG	A	Only if sustainable
SW LG	A	
DCQ	D	Same as other consumers
CCCC	A	
GDCC	D	Not in high preservation areas
LEB SAP	A	Similar rules should apply
LEB CAC	-	Access should be based on the sustainability of extraction
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	Sustainable take at the site
Resources	A	With some process/management in place
A review of compliance with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act is needed with a view to stronger regulation or compliance if necessary.		
RAPAD LG	D	As per current regime
NW LG	-	Maybe- within limits
SW LG	A	
DCQ	-	Don't know
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	N/A	Not sufficient information to comment
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	D	Educational programs in concert with a review
Resources	D	No, this needs a major reason to undertake such an exercise.



GDCAG	A		
Agforce	A		
Resources	A	No repeat quarrying should occur until the site has naturally replenished.	
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
NW LG	A		
SW LG	D	Depends on the circumstances.	
DCQ	D		
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A	Recognition of sustainability	
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	A		
Resources	A	Monitoring should be required and appropriate rehabilitation requirements included on any authorisation.	
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
NW LG	A		
SW LG	A		
DCQ	A		
CCCC	A		
GDCC	A		
LEB SAP	A		
LEB CAC	A		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	A		
Resources	A	<b>Obstruction of Overland Flows by Major Roads Across Floodplains</b>	
		Existing processes such as the application of Main Roads and Local Government standards are sufficient to regulate this development.	
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
NW LG	A		
SW LG	A		
DCQ	D		
CCCC	D	Qld LEB is wholly different to the rest of the state given topography - roads can cut off flooding to large areas of country - special regulation us needed	
GDCC	D		
LEB SAP	D	It is not clear that these are sufficiently well developed for protection. Roads can have significant impacts on connectivity.	
LEB CAC	D		
GDCAG	A		
Agforce	D	Not sure about this as the recently approved CQ coal railways x 3 run across floodplains rather than more suitable harder ridges but over a greater distance.	
Resources	A	Generic regulation (requirements) is not appropriate across a whole floodplain (i.e. it should be recognised that sometimes it may be more appropriate to construct roads at ground level and other times construction of raised roads is more appropriate). There could be a lot more work done on this area to develop road construction guidelines for the LEB regions floodplains	
<b>RAPAD LG</b>	A		
NW LG	A		
SW LG	A		
DCQ	A		

CCCC	D	
GDCC	D	If roads are to be built in these areas they must allow for the water to flow and cover the country it naturally would cover.
LEB SAP	D	Regulation should allow for such flexibility but it should be on the basis of potential impacts on connectivity
LEB CAC	A	Floodplains require protection for cultural as well as environmental reasons - they are known to contain Aboriginal sites of significance including burial grounds
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	Site specific as focussed on outcomes.
Resources	A	
		Cultural surveys should be conducted not only on the location of the road but there should be consultation on the <b>design</b> of the road as roads that are raised above ground level, impact on overland flows that can have an impact on cultural heritage values away from the actual location of the road - this requirement should apply to both Local Government and Main Roads.
RAPAD LG	A	
NW LG	A	
SW LG	D	See above. Can't have generic rules if they are impractical.
DCQ	A	
CCCC	A	
GDCC	A	
LEB SAP	A	
LEB CAC	A	
GDCAG	A	
Agforce	A	
Resources	A	







Advancing Rural Queensland



# Western Rivers Advisory Panel

*Supplementary Report*

**May 2013**



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## Introduction

The Queensland Government has indicated that it intends to replace the Wild Rivers Declarations in the Lake Eyre Basin (LEB) and develop an alternative management framework to provide a better balance between protection of the river's natural values and sustainable economic development.

While sympathetic to the desire to see the natural values and unique character of the Lake Eyre Basin rivers protected, AgForce has a long standing opposition to the use of the Wild Rivers legislation due to the following reasons:

- Failure to acknowledge ecologically sustainable development as part of the Act's purpose. This means that social and economic outcomes are ignored for the sake of a purely conservation based Act
- Places restrictions on long-term development options and future diversification
- Better environmental outcomes can be achieved by alternative means
- The Act creates perverse pest and weed management outcomes
- Restricts ability of landholders to adapt to climate change and market factors.

Throughout the Western Rivers Advisory Panel process, AgForce has been supportive of the replacement of Wild Rivers and the use of existing legislative frameworks, with amendment, as far as possible to achieve ecologically sustainable development.

## AgForce Survey Results

### Background

As part of understanding the views of AgForce members in the LEB to take to the WRAP process, AgForce surveyed members in the region on the natural values they wanted protected for the future and what developments (agricultural, resource or other) they thought should be allowed to occur or be prevented from occurring. Over 50 responses were received from members located in 9 shires across the Lake Eyre Basin. About half of the respondents were beef producers with a further 38% producing both beef and sheep. Of respondents 70% lived near a river or in a floodplain, although only 2 respondents were currently irrigating land within their enterprise, mainly for livestock feed production. About one quarter of respondents had resource activities occurring on their property or properties: of these about 64% had activities relating to exploration for minerals; 18% for production of minerals; 46% exploration for petroleum or gas; and 9% for production of petroleum or gas.

### Natural values

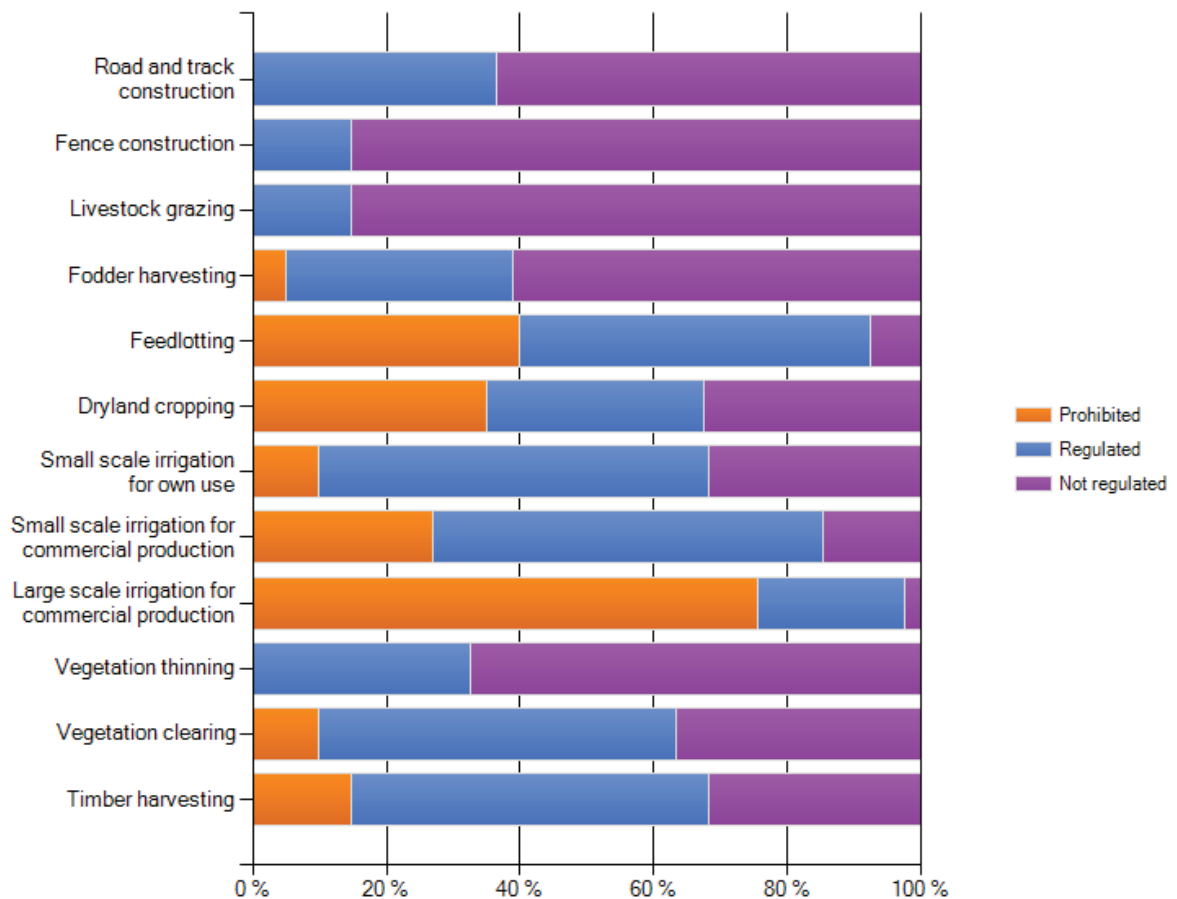
The respondents were asked to rank the importance to them of a range of natural values within the western rivers catchments from 'Not at all', through 'Somewhat', 'Moderately' to 'Very important'. In terms of 'very important' values, the greatest proportion of respondents identified values including groundwater quality (93% of respondents), groundwater volume and weed and pest free status (both 91%), the economic well-being of local people (85%) and surface water quality and economic opportunities for local people (both 83%). Other values ranked as very important by the majority of respondents included the social well-being of local people (78%), surface water volume (60%), and the natural flow of surface water (45%). Some respondents also nominated respect for local knowledge and the capacity of landholders to manage and respect the river including native plants as very important.

### Protections within watercourses and floodplains

Respondents were asked to review a range of activities that could occur within a watercourse or floodplain and nominate if they would prefer to see them prohibited, regulated or not regulated.

Figures 1 and 2 summarise the responses received. The majority of respondents did not see a need for regulation of livestock grazing, road or fence construction, fodder harvesting or vegetation thinning. This is not surprising given that grazing of livestock has a long history in these catchments and a lack of regulation of these activities in the past did not prevent the previous state government from declaring these areas as 'Wild Rivers'. Slightly more than half of the respondents saw a need for regulation of weed and pest management, but there was also a view that these activities should not be regulated.

**Figure 1. Levels of protection desired within watercourses and floodplains for a range of activities.**



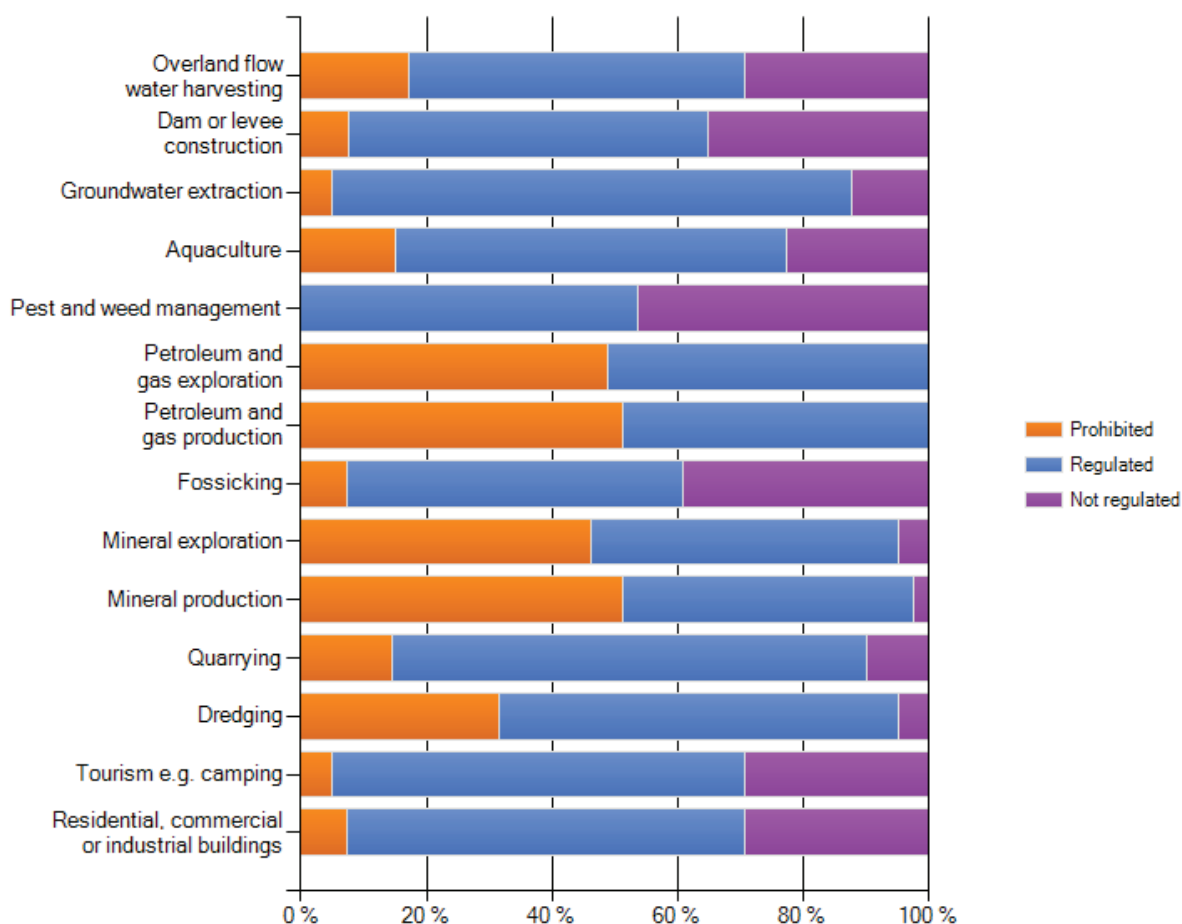
Respondents clearly communicated a view that large scale irrigation for commercial production and resource exploration or production activities should be prohibited or regulated within the watercourses and floodplains of the Lake Eyre river systems. There was also a clear response that feedlotting and small scale irrigation for commercial production should either be prohibited or regulated in these areas. However, there was a greater range of opinion about dryland cropping activities and the use of small scale irrigation for the use of the produce on the property.

In relation to the management of water, the majority of respondents supported regulation of overland flow harvesting and dam/levee construction, groundwater extraction and aquaculture. The removal of material, such as through quarrying and dredging, was also strongly seen as requiring regulation or prohibition.

In summary, as the potential for impact on the natural environment within watercourses or floodplains increases, either through point source pollution or a significant alteration of the existing

environment, an increasing proportion of respondents thought that prohibition or regulation was appropriate for protecting the area and ensuring sustainable development occurred.

**Figure 2. Levels of protection desired within watercourses and floodplains for a range of activities (continued).**



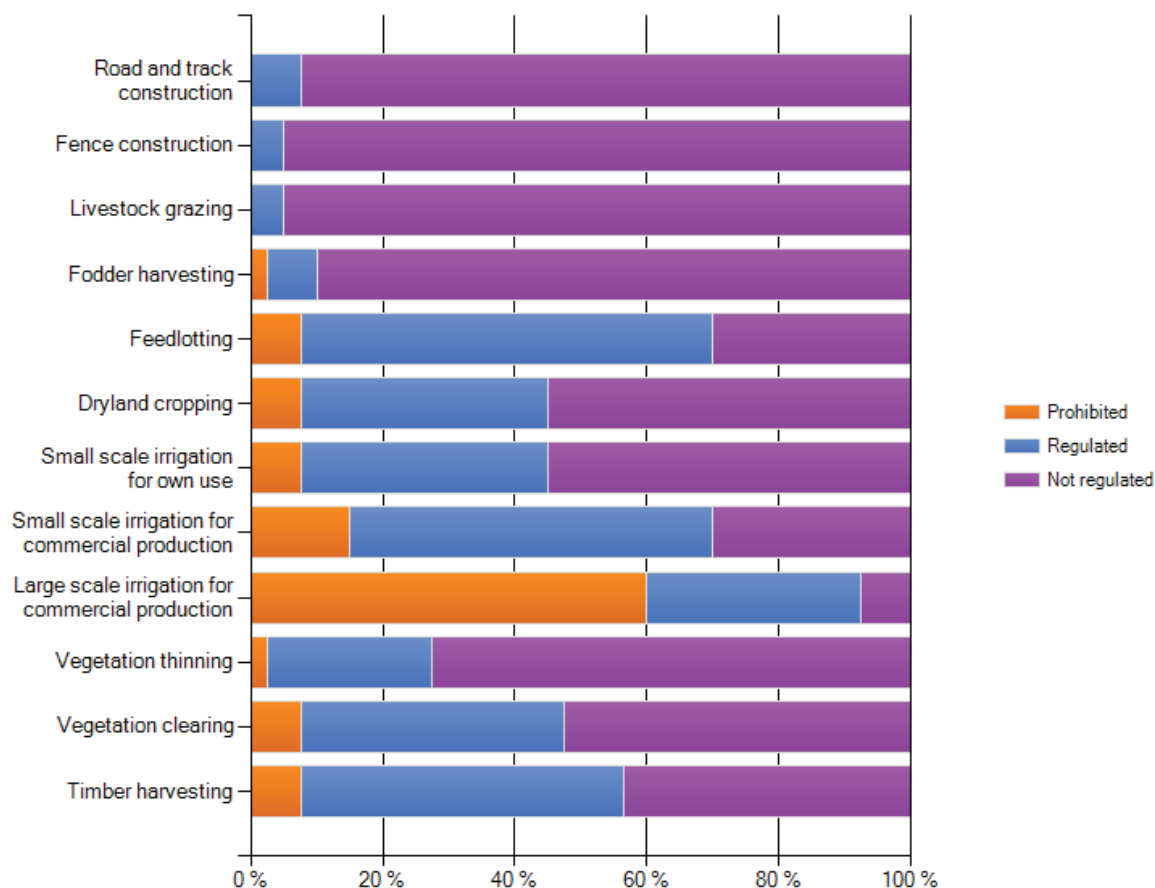
### Protections outside of watercourses and floodplains

Respondents were also asked to review the same range of activities that could occur beyond the outer watercourse of a river or floodplain and again nominate if they would prefer to see them prohibited, regulated or not regulated. Figures 3 and 4 summarise the responses received to these questions. Relative to within watercourses and floodplains, the overall call for regulation or prohibition across activities that occur outside of the watercourses or floodplains was not as great. The majority of respondents did not see a need for regulation of road or fence construction, livestock grazing, fodder harvesting, vegetation thinning, dam or levee construction or tourism activities such as camping. One respondent also added a call for regulation of any use of fertilisers and chemicals within the catchments of the western rivers.

There was strong support for prohibition of large scale irrigation for commercial production and for prohibition of regulation of resource activities in these catchments outside of watercourses and floodplains. There was also strong support for regulation of feedlotting, small scale irrigation for commercial production, groundwater extraction, quarrying and dredging.

However, there was a more diverse range of opinions in relation to dryland cropping, small scale irrigation for own use, vegetation clearing and timber harvesting, pest and weed management, fossicking and building construction; with about even numbers supporting regulation or not supporting regulation.

**Figure 3. Levels of protection desired outside of watercourses and floodplains for a range of activities.**



### Additional comments

At the end of the survey, respondents were also asked an open ended question in relation to any views that they would like considered in relation to Wild Rivers in the Lake Eyre Basin and its potential replacement. While there was some diversity of opinion, a number of themes emerged from the responses including:

- Wild Rivers legislation should be replaced  
*'There are enough laws in place without another totally unnecessary tier and the red tape and waste of money that goes with it.'*

*'Agriculture, mainly cattle and sheep production, has taken place on these "wild rivers" for over one hundred and fifty years without damaging the environment or altering them in any way. These rivers are essential for the pastoral industry in these areas. Unnecessary and unrealistic restrictions should not be placed on landholders who rely on them.'*

*'Wild Rivers or any replacement are unnecessary as there are already enough regulations in place e.g. restrictions on Large scale irrigation.'*

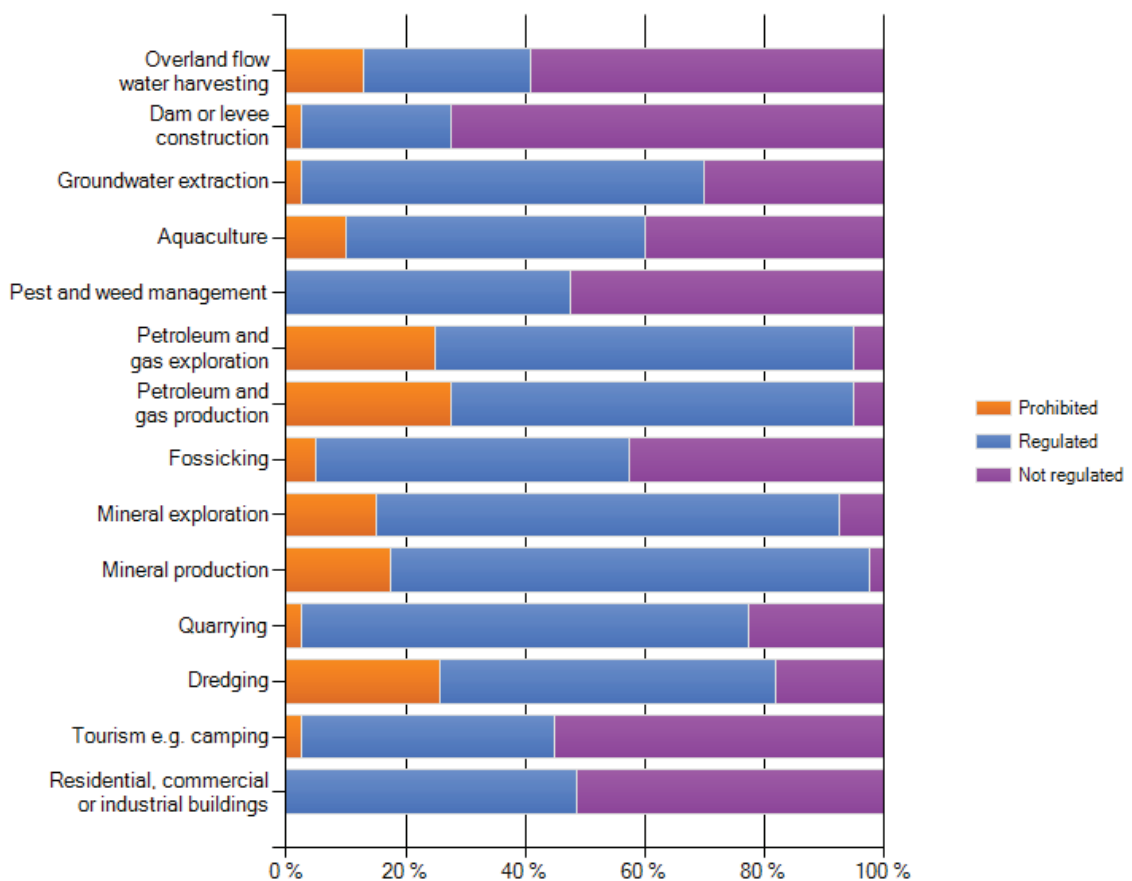
*'Both the Wild River Legislation and the Existing Legislation should be looked at to cross reference both to find common ground.'*

- Local people are best placed to plan and manage the rivers  
*'The information gathered and the monitoring of each wild river area should be the responsibility of local people with hands on knowledge and understanding of the area'*

*'Those with economic ties with the systems are in the minority, BUT need to have THEIR replies considered and weighted. We understand the system more than outsiders.'*

*'Wild Rivers definitely needs replacing with a plan that is more sympathetic to the needs of the residents who live along these river systems. There is far too much influence in decision making by people with green agendas who live nowhere near these catchments.'*

**Figure 4. Levels of protection desired outside of watercourses and floodplains for a range of activities (continued).**



- A balanced approach is required  
*'There has to be a balanced approach to all this. We need development while maintaining our viability and not destroying our systems'*

*'We need sustainable fibre and food production – not just a 'do it because we want to attitude' or in some cases greed or stupidity, including that of government. Making marginal land (by size or land type) financially sustainable by taking away the benefit from others or the land biodiversity downstream isn't 'sustainability' or working toward the common good.'*

- Economic viability is important to sustainable management  
*'Every effort should be made to encourage people to stay on the land, not discourage them, for that is the most economically viable means to ensure the sustainable management of our river systems into the future.'*

*'If producers cannot make a living with what they have: either get bigger or get out - do not expect the environment to supply more than it can safely do so.'*

- There needs to be controls in place for mining and large scale irrigation  
*'Coal mining should not be allowed in much of the "wild rivers" country because of the damage it causes to their unique environment. Coal seam gas mining carries with it the inherent risk of destroying the Great Artesian Basin and should not be permitted.'*

*'Totally oppose Coal Seam Gas Exploration and Production until sufficient scientific evidence of the safety of the Great Artesian Basin has been proved.'*

*'The Wild Rivers Act or an Act by another name with similar intent would give members in this catchment much more security over their land and their agricultural activities and much more stringent rules for would be resource explorers and miners.'*

*'We all have concerns out here about mining and large scale irrigation, but we already have bills and departments that can manage and regulate these risks; if protection is inadequate, address it through those existing structures.'*

- Any replacement system must account for regional differences  
*'Any 'protection' offered to the rivers must recognize the differences between the grazing businesses in the upper catchments and that in the lower floodplains. What is needed is flexibility within the protective mechanisms to allow for daily management.'*

## **Survey Conclusions**

In light of the responses from AgForce members who live along these river systems and have experience of the management of that natural environment, it can be concluded that there is support for a balanced and locally-directed approach to the management of future economic development opportunities in the Lake Eyre Catchment. Water quality and volume, weed and pest free status and the current and future socio-economic well-being of local people were seen as very important values. While there was a desire for reduced red tape around livestock grazing activities, respondents generally wanted to see controls on developments that have the potential for significant environmental impacts particularly within the watercourses and floodplains of the Basin. Such developments included mineral and petroleum and gas resource exploration and extraction, as well as large scale commercial irrigation development.

## **Additional comments on Sections**

The approach to reporting the deliberations of the WRAP within the report i.e. the "agree" / "disagree" approach do not, in a number of important cases, fully reflect the AgForce position. This

is because in a number of cases AgForce has disagreed with absolutist 'black and white' statements that were made, believing a more nuanced approach better reflects the realities of achieving ecologically sustainable development in the region. There are also cases where definitions used introduce uncertainty and that these required clarification before a position could be reasonably taken. The comments in this section are intended to provide further clarification where a simple reading of the Report that AgForce 'agrees' or 'disagrees' with a position does not reflect the full position. The Report statement is included in italics followed by AgForce clarification or comment.

### **Mapping**

AgForce do not wish to see the Wild Rivers mapping layers retained as the current maps adopt a standardised buffer distance which may not best fit the local areas under consideration and their development was informed by a flawed philosophy.

### **General**

*The Local Government sector, AgForce and the Resources sector rejected the view of protecting ecological health of rivers, natural flow paths, waterholes and wetlands by prohibiting new development activities*

AgForce's disagreement was based on the absolutist language employed. Some reduction or interference may be accommodated as a sustainable development with appropriate regulation.

*NW and SW – Local Government, AgForce and the Resources sector did not support an alternative legislative framework to replace the Wild Rivers Act. All WRAP members (except the Resources sector) supported an alternative strategy to protect the Basin's natural assets and values that reflected the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement.*

AgForce rejects a 'Wild Rivers' Mark 2 approach to a new framework and supports the use of other existing legislation, such as the Water Act, as an alternative strategy to Wild Rivers. Application must balance the economic and social values that are to be conserved and promoted (part 3.1a of the IGA) and ensure that application of the precautionary principle (3.1 g in IGA) is risk and science based not used to stop legitimate development.

### **Large Scale Mining in and Adjacent to Aquatic Areas (and on floodplains)**

These developments are of significant concern to AgForce members given the environmental sensitivity and community interest in the LEB. The protection of rivers must be rigorous and transparent and deliver a high level of protection:

1. Large scale mining projects should not occur within LEB-specific Environmentally Sensitive Areas within watercourses and floodplains of the major rivers and tributaries, i.e. they should be prohibited.
2. Automatic Level 1 (or Site Specific) designation elsewhere in the LEB catchment with model conditions applied that are specific for the LEB within the Environmental Authority. This to include clear plans to deal with significant environmental risks including flood risk, waste disposal including contaminated water, and tailings dam management.

*All WRAP members (except NW – Local Government, AgForce and the Resources sector) agreed that the State Coordinator-General should not have the power to override any alternative strategies for the protection of the natural assets and values of the Basin.*



AgForce supports the delivery of protections through strengthening existing legislation. The current and future Government is elected to balance up a range of issues of importance to the people of Queensland and the current generation should not seek to restrict future generation's capacity to make decisions about development or conservation outcomes.

*All (except NW – Local Government, AgForce and the Resources sector) agreed that conditions should be imposed to preclude some mining activities in "high value" areas. All (except NW – Local Government, AgForce and the Resources sector) agreed that open cut mining should be prohibited in "key sensitive areas" and that stronger requirements are applied for other areas.*

In some areas of high value or where insufficient scientific information on impacts is available then a targeted prohibition is appropriate, with site specific assessments (level 1) applying outside of the identified sensitive areas. AgForce did not disagree with not allowing mining in 'key sensitive areas' but wanted to see the inclusion of greater protections in major tributaries as well.

*The Local Government sector, AgForce and the Resources sector disagreed with a standard (minimum of 2 kms) buffer area which prohibited mining being applied along rivers. There were variable views from the NRM Groups.*

AgForce thinks that a 'one size fits all' approach is inappropriate, and any buffer areas need to be tailored to manage the expected impacts.

*All (except AgForce) agreed that natural flows must not be impacted by mining operations*

This is a case of a 'black and white' absolute statement. In some instances some changes to the natural flows may be consistent with sustainable development and be within a sustainable level.

*All (except AgForce and the Resources sector) agreed that an immediate audit of all existing mines in the Queensland part of the Lake Eyre Basin should be undertaken by the Queensland Government and a public report of the findings released. The focus of this audit is on the ability of existing mines to withstand a 1/100 year rainfall event without discharging pollutants to watercourses.*

AgForce did not respond to this statement as this information may already be contained in Environmental Impact Statements provided by mines. Additional information should be sought in relation to Temporary Emissions Licenses (TEL) and their potential application to the LEB.

### ***Unconventional/Conventional Petroleum and Gas in and Adjacent to Aquatic Areas and Unconventional Petroleum and Gas in the Broader Basin***

AgForce's current CSG policy (November 2012) is 'That AgForce still supports a moratorium on CSG development in regions where there is not yet adequate scientific understanding of the risks involved'. Therefore in relation to the LEB P&G development we would not be supportive of it going ahead unless it was well understood and appropriately regulated. This would involve:

1. The availability of objective environmental baseline data on a range of features prior to development occurring, e.g. water volumes, pressures and quality, etc.
2. The availability of scientific information regarding impacts on the environment from studies whose continuation is conditional on no significant impacts occurring from P&G production
3. Clear triggers for the cessation of resource extraction activity should significant environmental impacts be seen to be developing

4. Clear pre-development plans for the effective and safe management of produced water and any salts including the feasibility of aquifer reinjection given potentially limited options for other beneficial uses. Evaporation and surface disposal are opposed.
5. Clear pre-development plans to manage cumulative impacts supported by adequate background data
6. Greater confidence in the 'make good' provisions around short and long-term water impacts as these currently lack community confidence and are yet to be proven.

In terms of a legislative framework these considerations would point towards automatic Level 1 activity status (potentially a Site Specific status under the EP Act Green tape Reduction amendments) for P&G developments in the LEB and a well-informed environmental assessment process including full scientific scrutiny including from the Commonwealth's Independent Expert Scientific Committee.

*The Local Government and Resources sectors agree that existing (pre Wild Rivers) requirements on P&G operations were sufficient. AgForce and some NRM Groups disagreed with this view.*

AgForce takes the position that where there is insufficient scientific understanding of the impacts of unconventional P&G there should be a moratorium applied until this understanding is achieved. This is not the current state Government approach.

*The NRM Groups agree that there should be no CSG development in the Lake Eyre Basin. The Local Government sector, AgForce and the Resources sector don't agree with this view*

There is a need to improve current knowledge levels but there may be some potential for unconventional P&G to be well understood and appropriately regulated. There is a need for broader community confidence in the state assessment and regulatory system before that could occur but it should not be completely ruled out.

*All (except RAPAD and the Resources sector) support a buffer zone for P&G around rivers and floodplains.*

Exclusion distances should be based on risk to the environment, particularly water quality.

*All (except NW – Local Government, AgForce and the Resources sector) agreed that the alternative strategies for the protection of natural assets and values in the Basin should take precedence over P&G Act decisions*

AgForce did not respond to this statement. An alternative strategy should use existing legislative frameworks, perhaps with amendments as necessary.

*All (except RAPAD, NW – Local Government, AgForce and the Resources sector) agreed that decisions made under the alternative strategies for the protection of natural assets and values in the Basin should not be able to be overridden by the Queensland Coordinator-General.*

AgForce supports the delivery of protections through applying and strengthening existing legislation.

## **Major Weirs**

*All (except RAPAD and AgForce) agreed that weirs should only be developed for Town Water Supply purposes. All (except AgForce) agreed that an environmental impact statement should be required for construction of any major weirs.*

Multiple uses of weirs may be appropriate to maximise the value and utility of the investment. Impacts should be appropriately regulated but not a blanket ban applied. An EIS is unnecessary as these impacts should fall within the Water Resource Plan requirements for assessment of projects for ecological outcomes.

*All (except AgForce) agreed that watercourses not listed as “protected watercourses” in current Water Resource Plans should also be protected from major weir development.*

This approach is too restrictive and may rule out sites that could sustainably accommodate a well-designed weir.

*All (except AgForce and the GDCC) agreed that there should be a limit on the total number of weirs in the Lake Eyre Basin.*

Limitations on weirs should be based on the identified sustainable take of water not an arbitrary number.

### **Small Scale Irrigation Adjacent to ‘Aquatic Areas’ (and on floodplains)**

AgForce has been supportive of the State Government’s WRP process for other issues as a way to protect existing water entitlements and allow for sustainable use of resources that could potentially come under pressure. In addressing the question of sustainable small scale irrigation in the Lake Eyre Basin (LEB), there be no additional allocation of water beyond the allocations in the current Cooper Creek WRP and the Georgina and Diamantina WRP until a more efficient use of current allocations is thoroughly investigated. AgForce support the WRP process in the LEB and the use of objective, scientific information to guide any decisions about making more water available on a sustainable basis, beyond the reserves that are currently in place within the WRPs. To support the creation of economic opportunities, the current use of allocated water should be reviewed to get the unused licenses to support more productive outcomes through making trading opportunities available.

Trading in the LEB should be consistent with the principles of the Water Act that promotes trading, as unrestricted as possible, where:

1. No downstream impacts on other irrigators within the catchment occur
2. Environmental impacts are minimised
3. No additional water is taken above the current amounts within the WRP.

*All (except RAPAD, NW – Local Government and AgForce) agreed that there should be no further irrigation development in the Cooper Creek catchment. All (except RAPAD, NW – Local Government and AgForce) agreed to no new irrigation licences in the Lake Eyre Basin. All (except RAPAD and NW – Local Government) agreed that there should be no increase in the reserves of unallocated water for irrigation in the existing Water Resource Plans.*

AgForce agreed that there should be no further water releases in the current WRP, but potentially new irrigation areas could be sustainably developed using the existing amounts of water. Licenses (old and new) should be within the sustainable take of water. These principles are contained in the current WRPs and ROPs for the LEB. Allocation of water should be done on a scientifically

determined basis for the sustainable level of take, including reserves. The Government should look to use existing licenses more efficiently first. Existing WRPs are reviewed periodically, hopefully with better knowledge than before and so changing

*All (except NW – Local Government and AgForce) agreed that irrigation should not be authorised if it has the potential to reduce/interfere with natural flows.*

AgForce disagreed with this statement as it used absolutist language - some reduction or interference may be within a sustainable level.

*Efforts by the Local Government sector to define “small scale irrigation” as being between 400 & 1600ML of take of water/year were not supported by the NRM Groups or AgForce. All (except RAPAD and AgForce) opposed the potential aggregation of water licences. All (except RAPAD, NW – Local Government and AgForce) opposed changes to the current Water Resource Plans to provide additional water for irrigation. All (except NW – Local Government and AgForce) agreed that if water licences were transferred upstream the volumes of extraction must be reduced and the extraction thresholds must be increased.*

AgForce support small scale irrigation development, the scale of which should be determined by Government and the community, in relation to managing the environmental impacts, using a science based approach such as through the ROP process. AgForce does not have a prescriptive policy position on this question. AgForce supports trading of current licenses to allow for small scale irrigation development. Licenses should be tradeable so the water can go to where it is wanted but should be subject to an ‘ecological impact’ conversion factor if moving across trading zones, but should not presume a reduction. Trading rules should not result in significant downstream user or environmental impacts or result in more water being taken from the system. Aggregation up to a volume limit within a trading zone could occur so no significant downstream user or environmental impacts occur and there is no increase in total take of water. There may be situations where accumulation, within the limits of water available within a zone, could give a more sustainable result with respect to environmental, social and economic outcomes. The key element is to manage the environmental impacts

*The Local Government sector and AgForce agreed that the harvesting of water into storages should be allowed and encouraged. Most of the NRM Groups opposed this view. All (except RAPAD, NW – Local Government and AgForce) opposed the construction of water storages on floodplains.*

Floodplain storages can be set up to minimise environmental impacts and the footprint of storage to minimise flow disturbance on a floodplain. The Government is implementing regulation of future levee construction that includes consideration of downstream impacts. The key point is to manage the impact not impose a blanket prohibition.

### ***Industrial Development Adjacent to ‘Aquatic Areas’***

*All (except NW – Local Government, AgForce and the Resources sector) agree that “aquatic areas” includes floodplains.*

Floodplains are not permanently covered in water and so would not qualify as an ‘aquatic area’ – floodplains need a more individually-relevant definition.

*All (except AgForce and the Resources sector) agreed that authorisations for industrial development should ensure that there are no impacts on flows.*

Again this reflects an absolute statement whereas some impacts may in fact be sustainable. Cumulative impacts also need consideration.

### ***Large Scale Overland Flow Storages Adjacent to 'aquatic Areas'***

*The RAPAD and AgForce support the approval and construction of large overland flow storages in the Basin – actual wording was 'This type of development <large scale overland flow storages> should not be permitted in the basin.' All (except NW – Local Government and AgForce) agreed that overland flow storages on floodplains for industrial purposes should not be permitted. All (except NW – Local Government and AgForce) agreed that large overland flow storages should not be permitted on the Georgina, Diamantina and Cooper floodplains.*

AgForce's member survey showed less than 20% in favour of prohibition in or out of watercourses and so effective regulation is more reflective than outright prohibition. 50 to 70% of members surveyed were in favour of regulation not prohibition. Need to prohibit the impacts, such as undue interference with flows' not the activity itself.

### ***In-Stream Quarry Material Extraction***

*The open access to sand and gravel by Local Government was not universally supported. AgForce and some NRM Groups were opposed to this occurring.*

Sand and gravel extraction from the LEB rivers should be allowed but there should be caps on the amount of sand and gravel taken from designated areas based on sustainability of extraction, i.e. not 'open' access.

### ***Obstruction of Overland Flow by Major Roads Across Floodplains***

*AgForce highlighted that 3 coal rail lines in Central Qld traverse floodplains instead of more suitable higher and harder ridges – so what is the problem in the Basin*

This statement does not reflect AgForce comments to this issue. AgForce indicated that existing processes such as the application of Main Roads and Local Government standards are not sufficient to regulate this development and provided the example of CQ coal infrastructure which ran across floodplains rather than harder ridges.

## **Additional Comments on Recommendations**

The recommendations should be read in the context of providing a summary view of the discussion of the WRAP but acknowledge the many instances where stakeholders could not achieve consensus and so the Recommendations should not be read as a 'unanimous or consensus view' in all instances.

### ***Recommendation 2.0: a)***

*That the Minister considers a community consultation program in the Queensland part of the Lake Eyre Basin once he has determined an alternative strategy for the protection of the natural assets and values of the Basin.*

AgForce firmly believes that the alternative strategy should be very clear and that the consultation should be short and focussed. It should provide greater weight to those living in the Basin who have a more direct interest and stake in the final alternative framework.

**Recommendation 4.0:**

*That the Minister considers either a) introducing an amendment to the Water Act 2000 or the Environmental Protection Act 1994 or b) introducing a new 'sympathetic' legislative instrument, for e.g. - a Lake Eyre Basin Natural Rivers Act, to provide the necessary protective framework and strategies for the natural assets and values of the Basin. This legislation should be complementary to and consistent with the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement.*

AgForce are supportive of using the existing legislative framework, broader than just the Water and Environmental Protection acts, however amendments to the existing framework are required to deliver an effective LEB relevant approach. AgForce do not support a new legislative instrument or links to the LEB Agreement where these are used to prevent ecologically sustainable development.

**Recommendation 5.0:**

*In any new alternative strategy for the protection of the natural assets and values of the Western River catchments within the Queensland part of the Lake Eyre Basin, the WRAP recommends that the Minister give consideration to including the following mechanisms and principles:-*

AgForce supports restricting this extensive recommendation to a consideration of the issues listed rather than necessarily including all the issues listed in any new strategy. We encourage the Minister to consider fully the divergent views around some of the principles raised, including those outlined in this supplementary report.

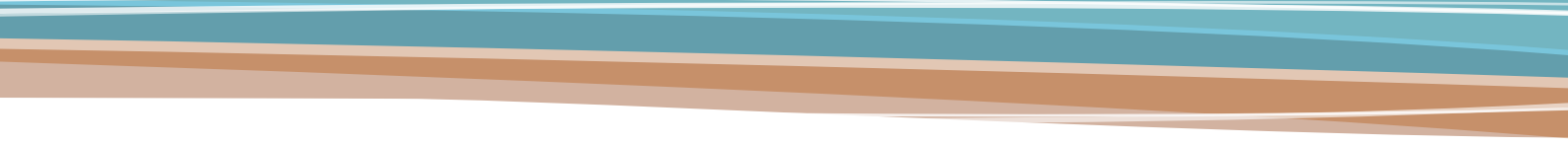
We would advocate that P&G development requirements in addition to avoiding pollution of the river systems and no contamination of the groundwater systems should also include no compromising of the short and long term groundwater supply. We would also advocate for the exclusion of stock and domestic water uses from overland flow capture when considering the impacts of water taken for consumptive purposes as these represent a small but essential proportion of the overall water flow within the system.

## Conclusion

AgForce thanks the Minister for the opportunity to represent its member's views within the Western Rivers Advisory Panel and to take part in discussions on the development of an alternative strategy for managing and protecting the natural values of the LEB while balancing this protection with economic opportunities for generations to come.

We have supported the Government's moves to reduce red tape and remove the duplicative Wild Rivers legislation that sought to bind primary producers into a time wrap with no capacity to adapt effectively to changing circumstances in the future. We encourage the use of existing legislative instruments to deliver the alternative framework and a more measured approach to protecting the Lake Eyre Basin's unique character and the communities that depend on it for their living.

AgForce are keen to support the Government in this challenging task.



## Western Rivers Advisory Panel

# Supplementary Report - Resources Sector

23 May 2013

### Introduction

The Queensland Government has indicated that it intends to remove the Wild Rivers Declarations in the Lake Eyre Basin (LEB) and instead develop an alternative management framework to provide a better balance between protection of the river's natural values and sustainable economic development.

While sympathetic to the desire to see the natural values and unique character of the Lake Eyre Basin rivers protected, the Resource sector has a long standing opposition to the use of the Wild Rivers Legislation.

Throughout the Western Rivers Advisory Panel process, the Resource sector has been supportive of the replacement of Wild Rivers and the use of existing legislative frameworks, with minimal amendment, to achieve ecologically sustainable development.

Our intent in providing this supplementary report, is to emphasise that although very appreciative of the opportunity to be a member of the WRAP, there are several key matters in the Report itself which the resources sector did not feel were consistent with our position on the development and regulation of the sector in the LEB. Note that in general where we have not indicated any issues, this shows our support for the other parts of the Report

### Summary

- We believe that some of the summary of the resources sector positions in the report has on occasion been misrepresented in the Report. It could appear as though where labelled 'not supported', we don't have an interest in the point being made or see that there is an alternative way to that being proposed in the report – several specific examples are given below e.g. 8.0 on Page 10.
- A lot of the findings and recommendations actually come down to defining terms like 'pollution', 'compromise' and 'interference' and in the absence of this, the way that some of the recommendations and findings are written it is very hard to interpret how, as a sector, we may or may not have concerns (or the level of our concern).
- Recommendation 4 is clearly our biggest issue and is not supported, given that it simply seems to be a proposal to trade one Wild Rivers Act for another. The sector does not support the development of a new legislative instrument.
- There is no distinction in the report between exploration and production, this in-spite of numerous requests by the sector (note that this issue applies equally to petroleum and gas and mining). It is well recognised that the differences in impacts between the two are stark.
- The Sector continues to not see any evidence that the current regulatory framework for the assessment and conditioning of resource projects, sans Wild Rivers Act, is deficient and needs to be modified to accommodate any of the issues that have been raised by other members of the WRAP during this process in relation to the LEB.  
Note that this does not mean that the resources sector does not recognise the unique nature of the LEB, but simply we do not believe that impacts cannot be managed by existing government processes, thus avoiding another Wild Rivers scenario.
- The Report does not explicitly recognise one of the biggest failings in the Wild Rivers which is its complete lack of acknowledgement of the true meaning of ecologically sustainable development



as part of the Act's purpose. This means that social and economic outcomes are ignored for the sake of a purely conservation based Act.

### **Comments on Report submitted (quotes from report in italics)**

The following provides additional information or clarification of the Resource sectors position on some aspect of the final Report submitted

### **7.0 The Natural Assets and Values of the Western Rivers and Issues that Potentially Compromise Them:**

#### page 5

We do not consider that "Primary Legislative Policy Tools" are Natural Assets

### **8.0 Detailed Analysis of the Issues that Potentially Compromise the Natural Assets and Values of the Western Rivers:**

#### Page 7

- *The Resources sector, Local Government and AgForce did not support a broader level of representation on the WRAP.*

Misrepresentation - the Resources view was any increase in numbers, not so much who they would represent.

#### Page 8

- *All WRAP members (except the Resources sector) supported an alternative strategy to protect the Basin's natural assets and values that reflected the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement.*

Misrepresentation - the resources sector referred to existing mechanisms as sufficient to cover the matters relevant to the best environmental management of the LEB.

#### Page 10

- *All WRAP members (except the Resources sector) agreed that future changes to the regulatory framework should not reduce river protection from large scale mining.*

Misrepresentation – we are not suggesting it 'should' increase harm either.

#### Page 11

- *All (except NW – Local Government, AgForce and the Resources sector) agreed that conditions should be imposed to preclude some mining activities in "high value" areas.*

Misinterpretation – the resources sector's issue is with the lack of evidence of the need for specific LEB conditions, which is inconsistent with the government's key policy position of outcomes based conditions, not generally whether such conditions would be warranted.

- *All (except NW and SW – Local Government and the Resources sector) agreed to the concept of model regulatory mechanisms/conditions being developed that are specific to the Lake Eyre Basin.*

Again, we suggest that there is no demonstration of faults with the current system

- *All (except the Resources sector) agreed that mining conditions must include no pollution of the Basin's rivers systems.*

Misrepresentation - this statement sounds as though the sector supports pollution - existing pre WR regulatory processes already cover the assessment of activities and what impact is acceptable. It is also unclear what 'pollution' means in this statement.

- *The Local Government sector and the Resources sector disagreed with the view of stream diversion on mining tenements not being authorised. The NRM Groups and AgForce agreed with this activity not being authorised.*

Unfortunately the report does not recognise that this issue was only raised because the recent changes to the Water Act under the *Land, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013* were incorrectly perceived as removing licensing for diversions, when they are actually replaced by conditions in the Environmental Authority.

- *All (except AgForce and the Resources sector) agreed that an immediate audit of all existing mines in the Queensland part of the Lake Eyre Basin should be undertaken by the Queensland Government and a public report of the findings released. The focus of this audit is on the ability of existing mines to withstand a 1/100 year rainfall event without discharging pollutants to watercourses.*

Misrepresentation - the resources sector actually sought a clearer explanation of why such an audit should be conducted and that if it was based on only one or two specific concerns, these should be the focus.

#### Page 12

- *All (except the Resources sector) agree that the cumulative impacts of P&G should not be allowed to occur.*

If inferred from our response this is incorrect, cumulative impacts are always a consideration.

#### Page 13

- *All agreed that CSG water monitoring requirements must be standardised and transparent.*
- *All agreed that compliance monitoring and enforcement of lease conditions for the P&G industry is necessary.*
- *All agreed that the results of all water testing for CSG development should be made public.*

The report does not acknowledge that these requirements and outcomes are already in place under existing non WR legislation and practice.

### **9.0 Recommendations**

**As these are the key to the report and the next steps in the management of the LEB wild rivers declarations, the resources sector would like to make a number of specific comments on several recommendations.**

**An overriding issue with a number of the recommendations is that there is no acknowledgement anywhere in the formal report that the sought requirements or outcomes are already captured under existing regulation or undertaken as part of normal industry and government practice. As such they are simply redundant (e.g. see a number of the sub-recommendations under Recommendation 5), and instead this status should have been referred to elsewhere in the Report, rather than becoming unnecessary recommendations.**

#### **Recommendation 4**

*That the Minister considers either a) introducing an amendment to the Water Act 2000 or the Environmental Protection Act 1994 or b) introducing a new 'sympathetic' legislative instrument, for e.g. - a Lake Eyre Basin Natural Rivers Act, to provide the necessary protective framework and strategies for the natural assets and values of the Basin. This legislation should be complementary to and consistent with the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement.*

This recommendation is absolutely rejected given that it simply seems to be a proposal to trade one Wild Rivers Act for another. The sector does not support the development of a new legislative instrument.

#### **Recommendation 5.0:**

*In any new alternative strategy for the protection of the natural assets and values of the Western River catchments within the Queensland part of the Lake Eyre Basin, the WRAP recommends that the Minister give consideration to including the following mechanisms and principles:-*

- *the regulation of mining in the Lake Eyre Basin in a rigorous and transparent manner.*

Redundant recommendation - this is already the case.

- *that mining should be prohibited in floodplains, major rivers, major tributaries and lakes.*

Inappropriate – there is an existing system of impact assessment and conditioning that should determine the limits of operations and how they are conducted. The resources sector does not support blanket prohibitions.

- *that open cut mining should be prohibited in “key sensitive areas” and that stronger requirements are applied for other areas.*

As above.

- *that the State Coordinator-General should not have powers to override any alternative strategies for the protection of the natural assets and values of the Basin.*

This is inappropriate. The resources sector supports the delivery of protections through strengthening existing legislation. The current and future Government is elected to balance up a range of issues of importance to the people of Queensland and the current generation should not seek to restrict future generation’s capacity to make decisions about development or conservation outcomes.

- *that mining requirements must include no interference to major rivers, major tributaries and floodplains. The Resources sector felt that mining of floodplains could still occur where there was no impact.*

This recommendation hangs on the definition of ‘interference’ and is therefore far too broad a recommendation.

- *the use of a “risk based approach” instead of the current “adaptive management approach” being used to manage the activities of P&G operations.*

Both have their role and the government should allow for both rather than picking one over the other.

- *that P&G development requirements must include no pollution of the river systems and no contamination of the groundwater systems.*

Need definitions as apply to all not just petroleum and gas.

- *that CSG water monitoring requirements must be standardised and transparent.*

Redundant recommendation - this is already the case.

- *that cultural heritage surveys must be conducted prior to any new development being approved.*

Redundant recommendation - this is already the case under existing Acts and Regulations, perhaps not for all but certainly for the resources sector.

- *that limitations on the take and or interference of overland flow water are effectively applied,*

We suggest that ‘*considering take required for the purpose of meeting environmental authority conditions*’ should have been inserted at the end of this recommendation.

- *that the adoption of a risk based approach with intensity of regulation being consistent with the scale of activity as being an appropriate way to manage development impacts.*

We would like to note that the sector strongly supports this approach, although it would actually appear to be inconsistent with the way several of the other recommendations have been framed.

#### **Recommendation 6.0:**

*The WRAP recognises the challenges faced by the Queensland Government in achieving a balance between future economic prosperity for the State and Basin and ensuring that the Basin’s natural assets and values are not compromised in the process. To achieve this balance, the Minister is encouraged to:*

- Adopt a framework that does not allow mining to compromise the Basin’s natural assets and the integrity of its rivers/streams, floodplains and the “channel country”.*
- Adopt a framework that allows mining operations in those areas of the Basin that will not compromise the natural assets and values of the Basin.*
- Apply stringent conditions to mining lease holders that ensure that pollutants cannot escape from mining tenements and compromise the integrity of the “organic beef industry”.*

Redundant recommendation - this is already the case under existing Acts and Regulations, perhaps not for all but certainly for the resources sector.

#### **Conclusion**

The resources sector thanks the Minister for the opportunity to represent its member’s views within the Western Rivers Advisory Panel and to take part in discussions on the development of an alternative strategy for managing and protecting the natural values of the LEB, while balancing this

protection with the economic opportunities which will further enhance the significant contribution the resources sector makes to Queensland's economy.

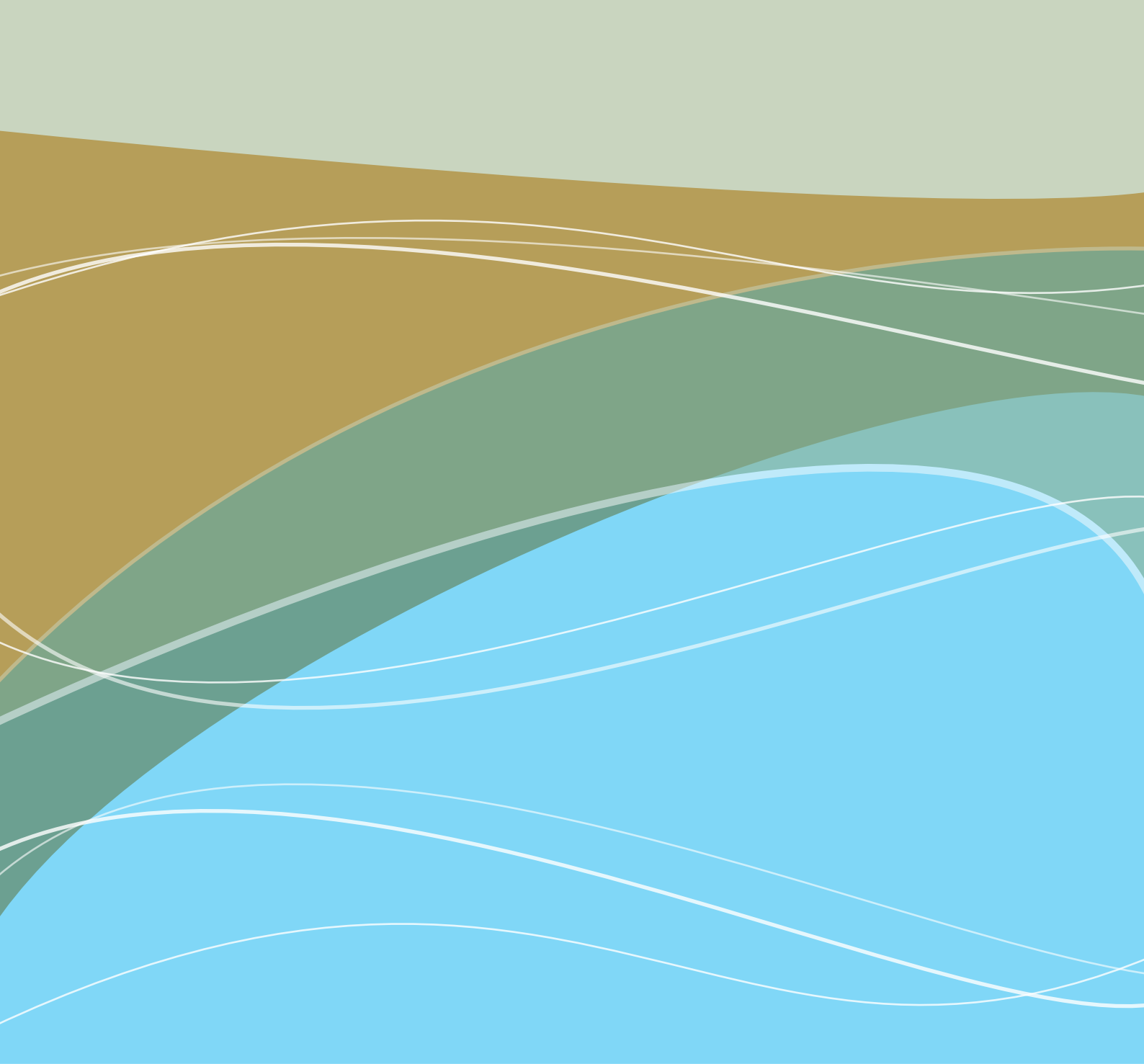
We have supported the Government's moves to reduce red tape and remove the duplicative Wild Rivers legislation and strongly encourage the use of existing legislative instruments to deliver the alternative framework and a more balanced approach to protecting the Lake Eyre Basin's unique character.

The sector seeks a measured government response to the recommendations which considers the issues we have raised in this Supplementary Report and is keen to play an on-going role in supporting the Government in this challenging task.









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