

5 December 2022

Lake Eyre Basin Secretariat

Email: lebsecretariat@agriculture.gov.au

Re: Submission to the Draft Lake Eyre Basin Strategic Plan

Dear Sir/Madam,

North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) is the voice for the environment in North Queensland, with a broad mandate to “protect the land, waters and atmosphere of the region”. Our region contains the north-eastern reaches of Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre Basin (LEB). NQCC welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Draft Lake Eyre Basin Strategic Plan.

Vision

- The vision fails to adequately reflect the uniqueness of the LEB globally (as one of the world’s last free-flowing desert river systems) and the value and importance of maintaining its near-pristine condition in perpetuity.

Threats in the Basin

- Threats to the LEB’s environmental condition are described in a way that downplays the scale of their potential impacts and diminishes the need to urgently address them.
- The LEB Strategic Plan should include a robust risk assessment framework to drive appropriate policy response according to the level of risk of the activity.
- The plan must also include additional scientific assessment of the likely impacts of climate change on the ecology and hydrology of the LEB.
- The plan currently fails to acknowledge or address the potential contributions of extractive activities within the LEB on greenhouse gas emissions (particularly fugitive emissions from unconventional gas extraction) that exacerbate climate change.

Other Comments

- Commitment is required from the Australian Government towards the LEB, including a stronger Strategic Plan, implementation plans, and the re-establishment of the Ministerial Forum (abolished in 2021).

Yours sincerely,



Crystal Falknau – Coordinator
North Queensland Conservation Council