

20 August 2023

Department of Environment and Science  
400 George St  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Email: [policyinitiatives@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:policyinitiatives@des.qld.gov.au)

**Re: Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement for the Queensland Lake Eyre Basin**

North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (CRIS) for the Queensland Lake Eyre Basin (LEB), following our contribution to the *Draft Lake Eyre Basin Strategic Plan* in December 2022.

NQCC is the voice for the environment in North Queensland, with a broad mandate to “protect the land, waters and atmosphere of the region”. Queensland’s LEB is important to the long-term health of North Queensland’s environment, as it supports significant ecological and hydrological processes, and provides habitat to endemic wildlife and migratory birds.

NQCC recognises the Traditional Custodians of the LEB and supports the Queensland Government’s proposed approach to addressing First Nation people’s issues and priorities in the Queensland LEB, subject to their free, prior and informed consent.

NQCC’s recommendations to the CRIS:

1. **Implement spatial option 3** – expand the boundaries to capture the most ecologically sensitive areas for protection.
2. **Implement regulatory option 4** – prohibit all future oil or gas activities within rivers and floodplains.
3. **Implement environmental attribute option 2** – broaden the definitions of environmental attributes to protect key processes and functions fundamental to maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

To best protect the Queensland LEB, which is of state, national and global significance, we strongly urge the Queensland Government to implement spatial option 3, regulatory option 4 and environmental attribute option 2, as outlined in the CRIS.

Yours sincerely,



Crystal Falknau  
Coordinator  
North Queensland Conservation Council