

Report on how local communities influenced Basin Plan implementation – Queensland

The Queensland 2014–15 annual report on using local knowledge and solutions to implement the Basin Plan (Schedule 12, Item 6)

Reporting context

The success of the Basin Plan and associated water reforms depends on working closely with communities and stakeholders who can provide the necessary local knowledge and solutions to effectively implement the Plan.

The Basin Plan requires Basin States, the Authority and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder to draw on local knowledge and solutions across a range of Basin Plan activities including long-term watering plans, annual environmental watering priorities and water resource plans.

It also requires that the best available knowledge (including scientific, local and cultural knowledge), evidence and analysis be used where practicable to ensure credibility, transparency and usefulness of monitoring and evaluation findings.

The purpose of this report is to monitor the extent to which local knowledge and solutions have influenced implementation of the Basin Plan during 2014–15. The report is a requirement of Chapter 13 of the Basin Plan and relates to Item 6 of Schedule 12.

Indicators for measuring success

The use of local knowledge to inform Basin Plan implementation is evaluated using the following indicators:

- How engagement influenced Basin Plan implementation (**6.1**)
- Processes used to identify stakeholders and other relevant groups and individuals from local communities and peak bodies (**6.2**)
- How stakeholders and other relevant groups were engaged (**6.3**)

6.1: How engagement influenced Basin Plan implementation

Where possible include specific examples of:

- *how local knowledge and solutions were used by the reporter*
- *how involving communities made a difference to Basin Plan implementation*
- *how decisions changed as a result of community involvement*

Local knowledge might include knowledge drawn from Traditional Owners and other Indigenous people and groups. When reporting on Aboriginal participation and influence, processes of involvement may be as important as outcomes.

In 2014-15 reporting, we would expect use of local knowledge to feature in development of Water Resource Plans.

Examples or case studies are not mandatory but may be a useful way to describe how local knowledge and solutions inform implementation of the Basin Plan.

(max. 800 words)

Response

Case study attached as separate document – "Community Engagement changes trading conditions".

6.2: Processes used to identify stakeholders and other relevant groups and individuals from local communities and peak bodies

Where possible include process used to identify stakeholders and other relevant groups/individuals

(max. 800 words)

Response

Queensland engages with several catchment based stakeholder groups about both surface and ground water planning and management. These are the

- Lower Balonne Water Network,
- Lower Balonne Working Group (which exists to support the Northern Basin review projects as they apply to that region)
- Border Rivers Food and Fibre,
- Border Rivers Environmental Water Network,
- the Gowrie Oakey Creek Irrigators Association
- Central Downs Irrigators (Central Condamine Alluvium)
- Oakey Groundwater Management Area Committee
- Dalrymple Groundwater Management Area Committee (Warwick/Allora)
- Upper Hodgson Creek Groundwater Management Area Committee (Toowoomba) and
- Border Rivers Groundwater Management Area Committee

Queensland attends all meetings of the Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN) to which it is invited.

The Northern Basin Advisory Committee (NBAC) is an active and comprehensive key stakeholder reference forum for engaging on matters associated with implementation of the Basin Plan and water recovery activities. Queensland attends all NBAC meetings.

6.3: How stakeholders and other relevant groups and individuals were engaged

Where possible include:

- *range of audiences engaged*
- *range of opportunities (types of engagement)*
- *relate these to the Basin Plan obligations to have regard to local views (Chapter 8 and 10)*

(max. 800 words)

Response

Queensland employs a mix of targeted meetings and public community consultation processes.

1) Joint consultation meetings with Commonwealth.

Queensland has participated in community engagement processes led by the Authority, which included representatives from the Department of the Environment and Commonwealth Environmental Water Office, during 2014-15. Meetings were held in Dirranbandi, St George and Goondiwindi. Issues covered included the water recovery – buyback and Healthy Headwaters Water Use Efficiency Program, Northern Basin review, Northern Basin Workplan, the in-catchment reduction in diversions for the Lower Balonne and the shared reduction for the Barwon Darling.

Queensland has supported Department of Environment meetings regarding groundwater recovery from the Condamine Alluvium.

Queensland has facilitated engagement with the Lower Balonne community and Commonwealth Environmental Water Office about temporary trade options to achieve environmental benefits.

2) Other groups

Queensland has attended stakeholder meetings throughout the year with groups listed in 6.2 and assisted in discussion of Basin Plan matters as they affect those particular stakeholders.