



Have your say on the future of the Queensland Lake Eyre Basin

COMMUNITY SUMMARY

The Queensland Government wants to preserve the ecological and cultural values of the rivers and floodplains of the Queensland Lake Eyre Basin region. We also want to support First Nations peoples' connection to their Country, and the sustainability of the industries and business that operate there.

We've worked with the Queensland Lake Eyre Basin Stakeholder Advisory Group to develop a set of options that could achieve these things.

Why we need to protect the Queensland Lake Eyre Basin

The Queensland Lake Eyre Basin is ecologically and culturally significant locally and globally.

The Queensland Lake Eyre Basin region covers around 30 per cent of our state and is the largest internal drainage system in Australia and one of the biggest in the world. Its pristine rivers support complex wetland ecosystems on densely channelled floodplains and when floods break prolonged droughts an abundance of plants and wildlife return to the region.

First Nations peoples have protected Kati-Thanda (Lake Eyre Basin) Country and Culture for millennia, and Traditional Owners and Custodians continue to work to ensure the rivers, floodplains and groundwater of the country are protected for the future.

The Queensland Lake Eyre Basin is rich in natural resources and supports local industries, businesses and jobs in the resources, agriculture, tourism and research sectors.

The need for consultation

The long-term economic growth and prosperity of the Queensland Lake Eyre Basin is important for those who live, work or have a connection to the region. We need to look at the current laws and processes to ensure they are strong enough to protect the river systems from future development while supporting sustainable economic activities.

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About the options

A set of options has been developed that could be implemented to ensure adequate protection for the region's rivers, floodplains and watercourses now and for future generations.

The options have been developed following a review of existing policies, legislation, ecological science and information about resources.

The options focus on the:

- areas of the rivers and floodplains that should be protected
- activities that should be allowed in the rivers and floodplains
- environmental attributes that should be applied to the rivers and floodplains.

For each of these options, we want to know whether the laws and processes that exist now should be kept, expanded, or changed.

In addition, we are seeking feedback on a proposed approach to how we should engage and work with First Nations Traditional Custodians of the Queensland Lake Eyre Basin to support and enable them to care for their Country.

Have your say

We want to hear from those who:

- call the Queensland Lake Eyre Basin home
- have a connection to its land
- operate a business or industry in the region
- have an interest in the region.

Have your say on the future of the Queensland Lake Eyre Basin.

- Visit: des.qld.gov.au/LEBconsultation
- Complete the online survey
- Email your written submission to: policyinitiatives@des.qld.gov.au

Comments on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement will close at 5.00 pm on Friday 25 August 2023.

To contact Strategic Policy, please email: policyinitiatives@des.qld.gov.au

For more information on Lake Eyre Basin visit: des.qld.gov.au/LEBconsultation

