

RAPAD Policy – Lake Eyre Basin:

- Agrees that there is community wide support for 'long term sustainability', and the existing, economic, social and conservation values of the Lake Eyre Basin (LEB) and its river systems. RAPAD understands the LEB is one of the world's great inland river systems.
- Agrees that the balance is complex between the community desire for long term sustainability and economic development.
- Agrees that invasive pest animal and plant weed species provide an ongoing threat, and here Government must commit to long term funding to NRM groups, the agricultural industry and local government to ensure this threat can be minimised.
- Agrees that rivers, permanent & semi-permanent waterholes offer important cultural and environmental, as well as economic and social significance, and should be protected in some form.
- Agrees that where there has been development surrounding the rivers and adjacent waterways within the LEB any 'protection area statuses should not be declared. Development is defined as intervention to change the landscape surrounding the river or waterway such that the system does not have all, or nearly all, its natural values intact. That is, the landscape surrounding the river or waterway, can no longer be described as undisturbed or as being in near its natural condition.
- Agrees that resource industry activities such as but not limited to, mining, petroleum, conventional and unconventional gas exploration and development activities are activities that can create value economically and socially, however for the same economic, social and also environmental reasons, they should be:
 - regulated in the Lake Eyre Basin. Protection may be required to extend up into the low order streams at the very top of these headwater areas where extensive mining and high rainfall may occur, producing significant risk of pollution events,
 - required to provide adequate financial guarantees for all remediation costs of pollution should it occur,
 - only allowed to proceed to development, notwithstanding all legal development approvals, where a demonstrated tangible economic and social benefit is realised by the communities of the LEB.
- Agrees that other industry activities, such as, but not limited to, agriculture and tourism are not adversely impacted by resource industry activities.

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- Agrees that industries such as tourism and agriculture existing and operating as it is at present in the LEB be allowed to operate without interference and that Government commit to ongoing extension for agriculture through, and with the agricultural industry, to facilitate adoption of best practice grazing and environmental stewardship.
- Agrees water license holders who have a legally obtained license be entitled to continue to operate it at their discretion and they must receive an appropriate commercial compensation if license holders are ordered to surrender.
- Agrees that all licenses, unallocated water and permits, used and unused, remain in the system and should not be resumed.
- Agrees that local government should not be adversely impacted by legislation pertaining to such things as access to sand and gravel, road maintenance, land for commercial development, access to urban water.
- Agrees that local government shall support good water management practices relating to water sharing (waterholes) between landholders, industry and local governments, and any legislation should recognise these good practices.
- Agrees that water allocations are essential (and licenses should be prioritised) for local government, residential and small to medium business growth, any current activities, stock and domestic, road construction and maintenance, and for indigenous & cultural use.
- Agrees that a landholder with riparian rights to water in the strategic environmental area of the LEB be allowed to build a dam or earth tank for stock and domestic purposes, the total size of which needs however to be determined to be consistent with previous points.
- Agrees that cognisant to the above relevant dot points, agricultural activities in general be able to develop, e.g., blade ploughing, fodder harvesting, regrowth thinning and vegetation management.

Endorsed - 23 February 2022