

Q&A Report: Water Futures Local Communities Leading Change

#	Question	Answer	Answer Name
1	How do you assess and monitor the ecological health of the river basin? Can you share any best practices?	we've worked with hydrologists who have guided us in terms of what/how to test but also how to get independent labs provide analysis of the water Margot, are the local communities involved in the ecological health monitoring process?	Margot Rawsthorne
2	what is the reservoir bed reservation and is it allowed to construct buildings like schools. any rules to protect the reservations	the College Lease allows for land to be leased out to generate rental income; this income is used to support local schools	Margot Rawsthorne
3	Are there any hypersaline tolerant flora species being used to reduce the salinity in Lake Hawthorn?	not yet but we are exploring the idea; the complex governance arrangement makes doing 'anything' challenging	Margot Rawsthorne
4	Speaking about the usage of water resources from rivers, is there any restriction on using water from the river? Why? Do the community have the authority to approve the usage of the water?	access to water in the Basin is highly regulated by governments. local community groups do not have the authority to approve the usage of water - this is the role of government	Margot Rawsthorne
5	Industry groups - including the Almond Board of Australia and Victorian Farmers Federation - have called for moratoriums on new horticultural/irrigation developments in the lower Murray/Mallee (in the case of the VFF, pending a review of the capacity of the Murray River to meet irrigation demands and, in the case of the Almond Board, for a long time). Are community groups supporting these calls?	live answered	Kelsy Burns
6	Given the common confusion in Australian communities over water equity—specifically, the tension between the perceived entitlements of high-volume irrigators and the water security needs of low-volume residential users or the often-voiceless needs of the environment—are you working on any projects that help communities might address this issue?	Thanks for the question Ken. Equity and water access in MDB is a challenging problem. I'll let Margot and team answer for the Water Futures project. But the One Basin CRC does have another project on water governance, which has an equity dimension - info available on our website. Equity is also a major focus of WaterTrust Australia, a partner of the CRC - their website also has good information on their projects. Regarding this other project on water governance, is One Basin CRC aware of or have you been engaged on the work NSW DCCEEW are doing on integrated catchment management which is looking at water quality and	Neville Crossman
7	How are you defining transformative change within this project?	live answered	Kelsy Burns
8	Do you still have projects to pursue a PhD? Where can I find out more about them?	Yes, Dina. We do. There is information on the One Basin CRC website. And you can contact our Education manager directly: Dan Pierce (daniel.pierce@onebasin.com.au) Thanks Neville. Dina - find more info on our PhD program here: https://onebasin.com.au/phd-program/	Neville Crossman Annabelle Dick
9	how do you link in with other disability services in the Riverland	live answered	Kelsy Burns
10	Thanks so much.		
11	Given the output of this project, could you provide a web-based system to disseminate your findings and engage the community to participate?	live answered	Kelsy Burns
12	That's the whole point of the call for the moratorium, as I understand it - it's to protect existing growers (as well as supporting environmental outcomes)	live answered	Kelsy Burns
13	With predictions of less water in the future, it is probable that some irrigators will need to transition to different crops or even move to alternate livelihoods. Are there learnings from the project on how to assist with major adjustments and change to how the community sees itself, if irrigation is reduced?		
14	Do you consider that action research has a distinctive role to play to reduce, or work effectively with conflict related to water in local communities?	live answered	Kelsy Burns
15	What processes were used to help increase the understanding of water literacy? Also what level of local water data was required?	can you drop me an email and I will provide more specific details - margot.rawsthorne@sydney.edu.au	Margot Rawsthorne
16	How can we keep up to date with these projects and research?	Hi Aless. You can subscribe to the One Basin CRC newsletter for regular updates. Best to do that via our website https://onebasin.com.au/newsletter/	Neville Crossman
17	Thank you for your informative and enjoyable presentation today. To what extent is the research team exploring the practical application of "adaptive leadership" (which originates from both complexity and leadership theory) as an approach to help drive positive change in complex basin environments?	will need to explore - thanks for sharing Happy to help Margot if you need me to direct you to some useful literature. Regards, Andre Taylor	Margot Rawsthorne