

**From:** GAB Secretariat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 September 2018 9:43 AM  
**To:** GAB Secretariat  
**Subject:** FW: Great Artesian Basin [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 17 August 2018 10:19 PM  
**To:** GAB Secretariat <gabsecretariat@agriculture.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Great Artesian Basin [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

To: Great Artesian Basin Secretariat, [gabsecretariat@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:gabsecretariat@agriculture.gov.au)

Dear GAB,

I have very little to say about the management plan and it broadly all looks good to me.

I am a geologist and think the threatened GAB has been improving, and don't know of many concerns myself at the moment.

I think the draft plan looks fine except for "Lightening Ridge" ( which should be Lightning Ridge - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lightning\\_Ridge,\\_New\\_South\\_Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lightning_Ridge,_New_South_Wales) )

Some potential concerns people may have are: "This demand includes the potential expansion of existing industries such as large-scale irrigation and resource industries, as well as new users such as geothermal power production and new resource industries (KCB 2016c). The community is concerned that these new users will affect the security of existing entitlements or environmental assets. If take is from areas of current stress, any opportunities to avoid additional take and maximise savings through improved efficiency or innovation need to be explored by all water users".

However in (KCB 2016c) ( <http://www.gabcc.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/gab-hydrogeological-surat.pdf> ) I could not find any such concerns, or geothermal power discussed (?).

For years I have been asking government bodies all over (mostly Eastern) Australia: "Do you know of any places with evidence of climate change, please ?".

So far I have been told of only six places. More should become known of as time goes on.

The GABCC ranges over an immense area of Australia, do you know any please?

The Murray Darling Basin Authority also covers a vast area and I have been asking them as well.

Re climate change is there a digital version of: "Miles C, White M, Scholz G, 2012. Assessment of the impacts of future climate and groundwater development on Great Artesian Basin springs. A technical report to the Australian Government from the CSIRO Great Artesian Basin Water Resource Assessment. CSIRO Water for a Healthy Country Flagship" ?

Kind Regards,

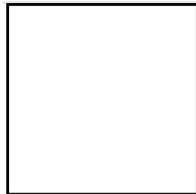
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## Invitation to participate in draft Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan 2018 consultation

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On 27 July 2018 the Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Hon. David Littleproud, on behalf of the Great Artesian Basin Ministers released the draft Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan 2018 for public consultation.

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has invited the local government sector to participate in the consultation process that has now commenced.

The Great Artesian Basin is one of the largest underground freshwater resources in the world. It underlies approximately 22% of Australia – an area of over 1.7 million square kilometres beneath the arid and semi-arid parts of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory. This Basin is highly valued and supports a range of industries, communities, cultural values and the environment. In some parts of the Basin it is the only reliable source of freshwater available for drinking. It is estimated that the Basin supports the generation of nearly \$13 billion of production for Australia each year.

The draft Plan 2018 was developed by the Australian, state and territory governments in consultation with the Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee who represent communities, landholders, water users and the various industries operating in the Basin. The new Plan will set the future vision for the Great Artesian Basin and be implemented over a 15-year period.

The draft Plan 2018 builds upon the objectives, outcomes and activities of the previous Strategic Management Plan which had been in operation since 2000. The draft Plan 2018 sets out seven guiding principles for future water management in the Great Artesian Basin. These principles cover coordinated governance, maintaining the health of the Basin, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural values, judicious use of water, information and knowledge management and educating water users on the Basin.

The previous Strategic Management Plan was reviewed in 2015 by Australian, state and territory governments in consultation with the Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee. A review report was released in August 2015, *Future Directions for the Management of the Great Artesian Basin* and is available at [gabcc.gov.au](http://gabcc.gov.au). A range of findings were identified in the report which have been considered as part of developing the draft Plan 2018.

Consultation will consist of a public on-line consultation process and meetings with stakeholders. The consultation process will close on 5 October 2018.

More information on the on-line consultation process can be found on the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources website at <https://haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/great-artesian-basin>

If you have any questions regarding the draft Plan 2018 please contact the Great Artesian Basin Secretariat at [gabsecretariat@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:gabsecretariat@agriculture.gov.au).

The feedback provided will be considered when finalising the new Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan 2018.