As landholders and investors in the Great Artesian Basin we are very worried about the sustainability of the Basin.

We have spent considerable money as have many other landholders, as well as State and Federal Governments to ensure the longevity of the Basin with respect to the water quantity and quality, pressure and the environs surrounding the scheme. We have invested in our future and the future of many generations to come. We see our stewardship of the land as vitally important and work hard to ensure the land is passed on to the next generation in better condition than when we took it on.

As with most landholders we operate our business in conjunction with a bank. Our land is valued according to it’s productive capacity and we have equity in our land accordingly. If the banks see a perceived risk in the long term reliability in the Basin it could be disastrous for the whole agricultural community that overlays the basin. It could prevent billions of dollars in overseas investment in the agricultural industry.

Since the banking royal commission banks have been forced to tighten up their practises. We believe this will require further information regarding licenses, access entitlements and other details when processing loans etc. This information on licensing and entitlement structures will be required to be transparent for them to be able to compare industries and provide due diligence.

The Great Artesian Basin Draft Strategic Management Plan is very clear throughout that any industry that poses a risk to the basin, or that does not practise judicial use of the water or that is not striving to improve their optimal use will not be welcome. We ask that this sentiment be enforced and these industries are not welcome to use the GAB.

We ask that you listen to our concerns and that any industry that is not sustainable is not allowed to risk our precious water.

Michael Marshall