

[REDACTED]
From: [Have Your Say - Agriculture](#)

To: Have Your Say; GAB Secretariat

Subject: [REDACTED] completed Draft Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan 2018 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] just submitted the survey 'Draft Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan 2018' with the responses below.

Respondent Details

Organisation name (if applicable)

No Answer

Name

Brian Hanigan

Work phone

[REDACTED]

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Email

[REDACTED]

Contact address

[REDACTED]

Would you like to complete the submission online or as a written document?

Complete the submission online

Which interest group (if any) do you primarily identify with? (You may tick more than one box)

Grazier
Dryland farmer
Environmental interests

Vision

Do you have any feedback about the Vision?

Obviously the vision of the management plan should be to look at how we all can preserve the GAB for essential uses for hundreds of years to come. As the basin water is finite unfortunately there is no ability for use in the unessential industries such as tourism, mining, leisure and manufacturing etc.

Issues, challenges and opportunities

Do you have any feedback about new or emerging issues, challenges and opportunities?

The emerging issue is the high use of GAB water in the mining industry which has the potential to depressurise the basin very quickly. The challenge will be to turn this back especially in QLD and to keep moving ahead with GABSI (cap & pipe) funding to improve water use efficiency. We have the opportunity to take up this battle or just throw open the flood gates and let big money industries destroy the GAB.

Principle 1: Coordinated governance

Tell us what you think about the principle, its objectives and outcomes.

The principle is clearly explained and appropriate Agree

The objectives of this principle are appropriate Agree

The outcomes will measure successful achievement of the objectives Not sure

Do you have any other feedback about this principle and/or its objectives and outcomes?

The outcomes may or may not be accurately reported but lets hope it will be the former and that what turns up in the reports is favourable for the longevity of the basin.

Principle 2: A healthy resource

Tell us what you think about the principle, its objectives and outcomes.

The principle is clearly explained and appropriate Disagree

The objectives of this principle are appropriate Disagree

The outcomes will measure successful achievement of the objectives Disagree

Do you have any other feedback about this principle and/or its objectives and outcomes?

In the long term the basin cannot continue to support the wide range of human activities as suggested in the draft plan. Social and cultural issues should be only secondary to the essential use of basin water for the basics of life (food and fibre).

Principle 3: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander values, cultural heritage and other community values

Tell us what you think about the principle, its objectives and outcomes.

The principle is clearly explained and appropriate Disagree

The objectives of this principle are appropriate Disagree

The outcomes will measure successful achievement of the objectives Disagree

Do you have any other feedback about this principle and/or its objectives and outcomes?

There is very little direct connection between the aboriginal people and the GAB. The connection is secondary in that the aboriginal people had strong ties to the area above the GAB, but not what is hundreds of meters below the surface. Their lifestyle was very beneficial to the basin as no interference was caused to the recharge.

Principle 4: Secure and managed access

Tell us what you think about the principle, its objectives and outcomes.

The principle is clearly explained and appropriate Agree

The objectives of this principle are appropriate Agree

The outcomes will measure successful achievement of the objectives Not sure

objectives

Do you have any other feedback about this principle and/or its objectives and outcomes?

There is no guarantee that water extraction and use will be in line with rights and responsibilities because in QLD as we all know the mining industry has been given statutory rights to take unlimited associated groundwater and removed the need for water licences to be obtained. Also, the CSG companies water take is virtually unregulated.

Principle 5: Judicious use

Tell us what you think about the principle, its objectives and outcomes.

The principle is clearly explained and appropriate Agree

The objectives of this principle are appropriate Agree

The outcomes will measure successful achievement of the objectives Strongly disagree

Do you have any other feedback about this principle and/or its objectives and outcomes?

Responsible, productive and efficient use of GAB water needs to be continually looked at where in the past the flow of bores in to open drains has been completely wasteful and to allow a multitude of extra uses of the GAB water would not extend the life of this resource.

Principle 6: Information, knowledge and understanding for good management

Tell us what you think about the principle, its objectives and outcomes.

The principle is clearly explained and appropriate Agree

The objectives of this principle are appropriate Agree

The outcomes will measure successful achievement of the objectives Strongly disagree

Do you have any other feedback about this principle and/or its objectives and outcomes?

Accurate information will not necessarily support good management of the GAB because any damage, by and large, cannot be repaired or reversed. So really by the time information about damage is reported it is too late.

Principle 7: Information management, communication and education

Tell us what you think about the principle, its objectives and outcomes.

The principle is clearly explained and appropriate Agree

The objectives of this principle are appropriate Agree

The outcomes will measure successful achievement of the objectives Disagree

Do you have any other feedback about this principle and/or its objectives and outcomes?

When we all have a long history of uncertainty about the exact workings of GAB water (recharge in particular) it will be difficult to manage, communicate and educate users and the general public.

Implementation

Do you have any feedback about the implementation section of the draft Plan 2018?

A rolling five year implementation plan may have worked in the past 120 years but with the pressure of heavy industry about to influence the use of water it may be necessary to shorten the five year rolling plan.

Additional feedback

Do you think the principles, objectives and outcomes provides the necessary framework to guide the actions of governments, traditional owners, water users and other interests to achieve continued improvement in the management of the Basin?

The principles and objectives are great but the outcomes could be very grey because the GAB (as mentioned before in this submission) is a very complicated resource that still has a lot of unknown forces connected to it and its recharge.

Is there anything else you want to tell us about the management of the Great Artesian Basin?

I could only end by suggesting that more often than not governments have a habit of interference which does not always have the desired outcomes. The Murray Darling system had too many licences allocated along the whole system, many were bought back by the governments involved and we still have fundamental problems existing. We do not want further use of GAB which could lead to the same problems.

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Declaration

To be completed by the person making the submission. I understand that: • the Australian Government reserves the right to refuse to publish submissions, or parts of submissions, that contain offensive language, potentially defamatory material or copyright infringing material • a request may be made under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 for a submission marked confidential to be made available. Such requests will be determined in accordance with provisions under that Act • if I provide personal information about an individual other than myself, I must make that person aware of the privacy notice in section I of this form and draw their attention to the department's privacy policy.

Confirm that you have read and understand this declaration.

Yes I understand

Confirm that you have read and understand the privacy notice in this form.

Yes I understand

Contacting you

Can we contact you about future activities and projects relating to the Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan 2018?

Yes

Contact name:

Brian Hanigan

Email:

[REDACTED]

Confidentiality

Is all of your submission confidential?

No

Is part of your submission confidential?

No

Publication of submissions on our website

Do you agree to your submission being made publicly available?

Yes

Do you agree to us contacting you about your submission if required?

Yes