

[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] 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

Kerry Hanigan

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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?

The wellbeing of present & future generations of Australia depends on the sound use of information in the management of our natural resources. This will not be achieved through "an adaptive evidence-based risk management approach". The precautionary Principle should be applied instead of adaptive management.

Issues, challenges and opportunities

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

The review of the Strategic Management Plan 2015 documented emerging issues, including risks to groundwater that may arise from mining and unconventional gas developments. It noted (3.1): 'It is crucial that water extractions for mining and unconventional gas related activities is transparent and accountable, does not compromise the long term sustainability of the resource, does not erode the water rights of other users and minimises any potential third party impacts'. The department must consider the Precautionary Principle when dealing with disruptive industries. Industry funded research must be independently scrutinized. CSIRO & GISERA are no longer independent and have lost their integrity. The finite nature of the GAB means we must ensure that the benefits are available forever and not just for as long as possible. The Narrabri Gas Project should not be allowed as it is on the recharge of the GAB. Remaining flowing bores must be given

funding to complete the cap and pipe scheme that has been so successful in restoring pressure and reducing water wastage .

Principle 1: Coordinated governance

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 Strongly disagree

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?

All jurisdictions & stakeholders have a shared obligation to enable the basin to provide benefits forever: - not as long as possible as stated in the SMP. GAB should be under one umbrella. A coordinated Board of Directors - independently elected to ensure transparent reporting and decision making. Each Government should not have their own plan - it should be one GAB plan.

Principle 2: A healthy resource

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

The principle is clearly explained and appropriate Strongly disagree

The objectives of this principle are appropriate Strongly disagree

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?

We know the basin is in natural decline. Why would the Government allow industry to disrupt and modify the recharge and natural discharge areas. The mining company SANTOS has already contaminated an aquifer, with uranium at levels 20 times higher than safe drinking water guidelines, as found by an official investigation. Under Water Extraction - what observations and recommendations have been tabled in the last 3 years since the 2015 SMP review. By the time Basin aquifers are identified as being under stress it will be too late for basin governments to put in place a management plan. These industries are self for the most part self regulated and self reporting which leads to non compliance.

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 Strongly disagree

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?

The cultural, spiritual and social aspects (especially with Aboriginal Communities) should be given far greater importance - as it is with the river systems management. Increasingly so with springs and mounds running again after the cap & pipe program. The cap & pipe or GABSI program should be continued.

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 Strongly disagree

The objectives of this principle are appropriate Strongly disagree

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?

Current policing of extractive industries on the GAB is majority self-regulated and policed by those organisations often funded by stakeholders. Better regulation is needed with harsh penalties imposed to those who do not comply. Public confidence that the management of groundwater access and extraction is in accordance with agreed statutory requirements is at an all time low.

Principle 5: Judicious use

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

The principle is clearly explained and appropriate Strongly disagree

The objectives of this principle are appropriate Strongly disagree

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?

Basin Governments should not grant new authorisations to extract groundwater based on demonstrated user requirements just because they display processes that maximise the efficiency and productivity of water use. over allocation of water from our rivers has been a complete disaster and over extraction from the GAB will also be a failure resulting in irreversible damage.

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 Disagree

The objectives of this principle are appropriate Strongly disagree

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?

Hindsight has demonstrated that previous policies and water management practices based on inadequate information have contributed to unacceptable impacts. The resource was not adequately understood & continues to not be to this day. There are still knowledge gaps that affect our ability to understand and manage the basin. Economic drivers should not overshadow the risks. Baseline data should be a high priority.

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 Strongly disagree

The objectives of this principle are appropriate Strongly disagree

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?

A basin wide resource condition report to be established and communicated every 5 years is too long. With disruptive industries such as coal seam gas mining, which is for the most part self regulated and self reporting there could be enormous changes over that time and it may be too late to fix it. The precautionary principle must apply. To focus on risk management is a disaster waiting to happen. Adaptive management is not a tool to be used when protecting the GAB for future generations. Evidence based decisions, when the evidence has been collected by self interested parties should not be allowed. Credible baseline data is needed. Bodies like, CSIRO and GISERA are no longer independent and their studies are compromised because they are collecting data funded by industry for a desired outcome.

Implementation

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

Multiple governments cannot be allowed to implement separate regulations and compliance. The GAB is not divided along State line and the governance should fall under one body with all of Australia's interests considered. A rolling five year plan is too long. Agriculture is a sustainable long term industry vital to Australia's prosperity whereas the mining industry and more particularly the coal seam gas industry is a high risk, short term sunset industry. How can industry and other interested groups make investment decisions with any security when the Strategic Management Plan is set up by the Government, run by the Government, to benefit the Government. The mining industry has too much control over Government and hence this makes the Government unable to be objective to the needs of the GAB.

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?

No. I do not think the principles, objectives and outcomes will provide the necessary framework to guide the actions of governments to achieve continued improvement in the management of the Basin. The government is too influenced by the mining industry and the reactive approach to the management of the GAB through adaptive management will not bring about a healthy and sustainable basin plan. The government is not weighing up the long term economic benefit from the agricultural industry and is prepared to jeopardize this in a naive belief that the mining industry will deliver greater short term gains.

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

My recommendations are; 1) Adopt the Precautionary Principle - especially before any mining industry is continued above the GAB - and remove 'adaptive management' 2) Immediately continue (and increase) the cap and pipe GABSI funding, and maintain and cap all bores 3) Appoint an independent Board of Directors, to oversee GAB management and for this board to come under one umbrella, not one for each state where self interest will jeopardize the outcomes. 4) Have independently (not industry funded) monitoring and evidence, before any further mining is approved.

Privacy notice

'Personal information' means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable. The collection of personal information by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in relation to this submission is for the purposes of gathering information on the draft Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan 2018 and related purposes. If you do not provide this information, the department will be unable to contact you to discuss or respond to your submission. Under the Freedom of Information Act 1982, submissions marked confidential may be made available. Such requests will be determined in accordance with provisions under that Act. Personal information may be published on the department's website, disclosed to other Australian agencies, persons or organisations where necessary for these purposes, provided the disclosure is consistent with relevant laws, in particular the Privacy Act 1988. Your personal information will be used and stored in accordance with the Privacy Principles. See the department's Privacy Policy (www.agriculture.gov.au/about/privacy) to learn more about accessing or correcting personal information or making a complaint. Alternatively, telephone the department on +61 2 6272 3933.

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?

No

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