

Draft Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan 2018

Have Your Say – Agriculture and Water Resources

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Welcome to our public consultation on the draft Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan 2018. We are seeking your feedback on what works and ways that we can improve the plan.

Before you submit, make sure you:

- read the draft Plan 2018, or
- read our summary of the draft Plan 2018 (which outlines the Vision, Principles, Objectives and Outcomes).

Share your ideas in our short survey.

Each survey question is supported with free text boxes to provide an opportunity for respondents to provide additional comments.

You can also upload an optional written submission at the end of the survey.

Vision

Do you have any feedback about the Vision?

Suggest changing the order of the text in the Vision:

The Great Artesian Basin is managed judiciously through the optimal use of the water for present and future generations to uphold the values of the Basin and maintain water dependent ecosystems by governments, communities and industries working together.

Bold vision, but I like that in a plan.

No reference to spiritual [aspects of GAB] ... or to springs in the vision.

Concept of shared responsibility is worthy.

While being short has its benefits, it's important that the words say what we want and can be understood by others.

Issues, challenges and opportunities

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

This plan should be about managing the resource, through sustainable growth. The term balanced should be used at the start of this section, new demand should not affect the improvements coming from the previous plan e.g. improved basin pressure.

ISSUES:

Need to be very cautious about how objectives about growth are framed; e.g. labelling the GAB as an economic resource when we have only just started to restore pressure; we can't continue to allocate the water saved and still remain or improve the pressure of the Basin, especially if it is a declining resource.

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Recognition of traditional owners in the purpose is important, however, there is some caution over the term traditional owners in the purpose. A suggestion would be that the term used in the rest of the document “Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples” sets a more contemporary tone as purpose is describing a range of outcomes to these users, not just traditional uses.

There’s a lack of clarity about GDE’s – the plan talks about springs but not non-spring GDE’s [This is an issue for the resource sector].

CHALLENGES:

What are sustainable use thresholds; when will the GAB have been fixed? How will we know? Should the plan seek to set targets for sustainable extraction?

Members spoke about the challenges industry has in tracking and monitoring water use; is it the role of the plan to go into that level of detail [i.e. to address tracking and monitoring].

No mention of climate changes impacts on the resource or within the document.

More detail about coproduced water as an opportunity is needed. This issue is not in the actual SMP as an objective or outcome. This issue will exist for the life of the SMP and may be a priority for some industries as a water source.

No mention of the impact of the plan on threatened species both in springs and associated GAB infrastructure e.g. rare fish in bore drains.

I think there needs to be some consideration given to program alignment between agencies and NRM groups. The best time to do some of our work for instance is when the `capping and piping' is done. Our work [DCQ] and your work [NRME] also aligns very nicely with DAF's drought resilience program and building business diversification. But this needs to be captured somewhere to ensure that it happens somewhere at some stage. We keep missing the opportunities because we focus on our internal business.

OPPORTUNITIES:

The SMP highlights co-produced water as an opportunity, however, again it is not highlighted throughout the document as an objective nor an outcome. I’m not sure how readily available co-produced water is or its ability to be used in intensive livestock system but given its function in recycling water, I’d suggest it should be considered a priority for industry and government. E.g. Perhaps co-producer water is what could begin to build state reserves?? Regardless I would suggest that an objective needs to be built around co-produced water.

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Principle 1: Coordinated governance

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

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
The principle is clearly explained and appropriate					X
The objectives of this principle are appropriate					X
The outcomes will measure successful achievement of the objectives					X

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

The coordinated governance section is great and captures everything nicely, so we know project alignment can be done down to the same level.

Support for *transparent public reporting* as an outcome.

Principle 2: A healthy resource

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

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
The principle is clearly explained and appropriate					X
The objectives of this principle are appropriate					X
The outcomes will measure successful achievement of the objectives					X

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

Carbon sequestration is a possible water quality risk. Is this adequately covered by outcome 2.3.3?

The healthy resource and basin recharge and natural discharge mention weeds and pests in passing but the truth is these two factors impact greatly on both sections. I realise it's a GAB Strategy and I'm not suggesting you add anything more or less to either sections, I'm merely highlighting again the synergies in our work. In neither area there was no mention of the threatened ecological communities or the threatened species that may reside in the bore drains etc. and I don't think we can afford to overlook these matters.

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

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

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
The principle is clearly explained and appropriate					X
The objectives of this principle are appropriate					X
The outcomes will measure successful achievement of the objectives					X

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

Not sure that the outcomes for this will deliver on the objective. This may be linked to the word sustain in the objective – is they achievable?

Group support water for ATSI uses, but question if it is the SMP that can do this or should it more clearly point to state activities.

Confusion over the multiple projects/activity possible from Outcome 3.4, suggest splitting economic development off and put into a new outcome in Principle 4.

Principle 4: Secure and managed access

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

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
The principle is clearly explained and appropriate					X
The objectives of this principle are appropriate					X
The outcomes will measure successful achievement of the objectives					X

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

Measurement (vs metering) is missing in the document [Outcome 4.8 is not clear] – need to measure/account for volume used for all users in the Basin

The ability to successfully monitor and track usage in accordance to the relevant industry and their economic contribution is essential in determining the future demand and return (on investment) of GAB usage.

Water quality was suggested as an issue for secure access as well a healthy resource
(cont'd over)

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Not enough emphasis has been put on the allocation of regions which do not have access to state and/or strategic reserves in water plans. Whilst the Darling Downs is one of the few regions which has been limited by an inability to access either a state or strategic reserve, there is concern that this may increase across the state. However, when we assess the economic contribution the Downs makes to Australia's economy it is unreasonable that a region such as that should be limited in its capacity to expand. I would suggest that one of the Objectives would be to review the allocation of State and/or Strategic Reserves across all states.

Principle 5: Judicious use

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

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
The principle is clearly explained and appropriate					X
The objectives of this principle are appropriate					X
The outcomes will measure successful achievement of the objectives					X

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

Should this principle discuss having target is a long term goal for judicious use – pressures from industry/govt; ongoing challenge to safeguard the GAB for the long haul. Does it lead to a KPI by the time of the next SMP?

Suggest baby steps in this plan – Work to set long term targets – Put in place monitoring of usage and pressure changes until the next planning process so will enable us to set targets in the future?

Capping and piping should not be aspirational, it should be completed. The QGABAC supports adding a sunset clause to the plan. For example all uncontrolled bores and bore drains should be controlled by 2027. A 10 year date would allow review then targeted action within the life of the plan if this date isn't met.

Capping and piping should be more explicit/prominent in this set of outcomes.

The current legislated sunset clauses for capping and piping, SA and Qld, should be noted in the text as key drivers for the outcomes under this principle.

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Principle 6: Information, knowledge and understanding for good management

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

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
The principle is clearly explained and appropriate		X			
The objectives of this principle are appropriate		X			
The outcomes will measure successful achievement of the objectives		X			

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

No comment.

Principle 7: Information management, communication and education

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

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
The principle is clearly explained and appropriate		X			
The objectives of this principle are appropriate		X			
The outcomes will measure successful achievement of the objectives		X			

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

No comment.

Implementation

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

States don't have to do much other than deliver the GABORA / state plans. QGABAC suggest the implementation includes requirements for parties to deliver on the principles and planning processes and to deliver incentive projects and programs, as outlined in the implementation plan.

The implementation plan will need to be visible to the community to assist in tracking.

The document is currently light on what the Commonwealth role is in regards to the Basin. It is a significant national asset covering a large area of the country but the national governments role seems limited.

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Upload a written submission

Note: Answer this question if it applies

Are you attaching a written submission?

Note: Make sure your written submission refers to the principle, objective or outcome you are commenting on where possible.

Yes

No

Contacting you

Can we contact you about future activities and projects relating to the Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan 2018? (Choose any one option)

Yes

No

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for *Can we contact you about future activities and projects relating to the Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan 2018?*

Contact name: (Required)

Mr Scott Mason, Chair Queensland Great Artesian Basin Advisory Council

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for *Can we contact you about future activities and projects relating to the Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan 2018?*

Email: (Required)

[Redacted]

Confidentiality

Is all of your submission confidential? (Choose any one option) (Required)

No

Yes (clearly mark the submission 'In confidence')

Is part of your submission confidential? (Choose any one option) (Required)

No

Yes (clearly mark the relevant section/s 'In confidence')

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Publication of submissions on our website

Do you agree to your submission being made publicly available? (Choose any one option) (Required)

Yes

No

Answer this question only if you have chosen No for *Do you agree to your submission being made publicly available?*

Do you agree to your name and state/territory being listed? (Choose any one option) (Required)

Yes

No

Do you agree to us contacting you about your submission if required? (Choose any one option) (Required)

Yes

No

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Confirm that you have read and understand this declaration. (Choose all that apply) (Required)

Yes I understand

Confirm that you have read and understand the privacy notice in this form. (Choose all that apply) (Required)

Yes I understand