

# New South Wales Implementation Plan for the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative Phase 3 - 2012-2013

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT  
ON THE GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN SUSTAINABILITY  
INITIATIVE

## **Part 1: Preliminaries**

1. This Implementation Plan is a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement. The objective in the National Partnership is for the Parties to aspire to a sustainable and on-going groundwater management system for the Great Artesian Basin.
2. The Commonwealth has agreed to provide up to \$30 million to New South Wales (the State) under the third phase of the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (the Program) to assist in the capping and piping of all Great Artesian Basin bores legally operating in an uncontrolled state and related activities (Projects). In achieving this objective the State has agreed to:
  - a) ensure to the fullest extent possible that at least 70 per cent of the water saved under the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative will be directed to restoring pressure in the Basin and not be reallocated for consumptive purposes; and
  - b) ensure that funding will not be used for increasing the watered area of a property. The watered area of a property will be determined by the application of a formula described in the Projects Submission to the current network of open bore drains.

## **Part 2: Terms of this Implementation Plan**

3. This Implementation Plan will commence as soon as it is agreed between the State of New South Wales, represented by the Minister for Primary Industries, and the Commonwealth of Australia represented by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, or relevant Ministers with portfolio responsibilities for the Great Artesian Basin.
4. As a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative, the purpose of this Implementation Plan is to provide the public

with an indication of how the projects are intended to be delivered and demonstrate New South Wales's capacity to achieve the outcomes of the National Partnership.

5. This Implementation Plan will cease on completion or termination of the National Partnership or acceptance of a subsequent Implementation Plan.
6. This Implementation Plan may be varied by written agreement between the Commonwealth and State Ministers, in accordance with clause 11 of the National Partnership.
7. The Parties to this Implementation Plan do not intend any of the provisions to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties' commitment to the plan and its full implementation.

### **Part 3: Strategy for New South Wales implementation**

#### **Project information**

8. The Project elements planned include:
  - a) design works;
  - b) reconditioning or repair of existing bore;
  - c) capping of existing bore;
  - d) drilling of new bore and plugging of old bore;
  - e) installation of water delivery infrastructure (such as piping, relief valves, tanks and troughs); and
  - f) project management, monitoring and reporting.
9. The number and location of proposed carry over Projects from 2009–2010 and 2010–2011, 2011–2012 and new Projects and are summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1: Proposed Projects**

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Surat</b>	<b>Warrego</b>	<b>Management Monitoring and Reporting (State-wide)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Number of Proposed Projects</b>	2	20	5	1	28

#### **Estimated costs**

10. Having completed an assessment of the proposed Projects in accordance with the Assessment Guidelines and Project Eligibility Criteria contained in Schedule A to the National Partnership, the Commonwealth will provide a maximum financial contribution of \$7,204,415 to the State for Projects. All payments are exclusive of GST.

11. The estimated overall budgets are set out in Table 2. The budget is indicative only and the State retains the flexibility to move funds between components, as long as outcomes are not affected. The Commonwealth contribution can only be moved between years with the agreement of the Commonwealth.

**Table 2: Estimated financial contributions – 2012-13**

	<b>Central</b>	<b>Surat</b>	<b>Warrego</b>	<b>Management Monitoring and Reporting (State-wide)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	
Total estimated budget:					
2009-10 projects (brought forward)			173,829		173,829
2010-11 projects (brought forward)		814,383			814,383
2011-12 projects (brought forward)	309,712	3,201,818	193,609	420,000	4,125,139
2012-13 projects	221,403	11,285,696	2,919,777	700,000	15,126,875
<b>Total estimated budget</b>	<b>531,115</b>	<b>15,301,897</b>	<b>3,287,215</b>	<b>1,120,000</b>	<b>20,240,226</b>
<i>less</i> estimated Commonwealth contributions:					
2009-10 projects (brought forward)			86,914		86,914
2010-11 projects (brought forward)		407,192			407,192
2011-12 projects (brought forward)	154,856	1,600,909	96,804	210,000	2,062,569
2012-13 projects	90,520	3,219,439	987,781	350,000	4,647,740
<b>Total estimated Commonwealth contributions</b>	<b>245,376</b>	<b>5,227,539</b>	<b>1,171,500</b>	<b>560,000</b>	<b>7,204,415</b>
<i>equals</i> estimated balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	285,739	10,074,358	2,115,715	560,000	13,035,811

### Program logic

12. The Projects will achieve the outcomes and objectives set out in the National Partnership by:
- a) achieving water savings and contributing towards pressure recovery in the Great Artesian Basin through the replacement of old bores legally operating in an uncontrolled state and the replacement of legally operating bore drains with an efficient, controlled water reticulation system; and

- b) promoting sustainable water and land management practices through the education and training of participating landholders in the operation and maintenance of the proposed infrastructure.

### **Risk management**

- 13. A risk management plan is in place. Risks have been actively identified, entered into a risk log and categorised in terms of impact and likelihood.

### **Relevant State Context**

- 14. The Parties have agreed to details of specific Projects and the methodology by which eligibility criteria and specific performance benchmarks have been determined, having due regard to relevant State considerations, but such details and methodology do not form part of this Implementation Plan
- 15. In developing this Implementation Plan consideration has been given to:
  - a) the New South Wales Water Resource (Great Artesian Basin) Plan 2006;
  - b) protection of New South Wales Great Artesian Basin springs;
  - c) protection of water remote areas in New South Wales.

## **Part 4: Performance and reporting arrangements**

### **Milestones**

- 16. To qualify for the associated payment, the State must meet the milestones set out in Table 3.

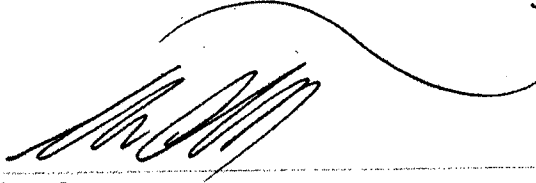
**Table 3: Milestones**

Milestone Number	Milestone	Due Date	Payment
1	Satisfactory assessment by the Commonwealth of new Project proposals	Within 60 days of Commonwealth Minister's agreement	Up to \$1,549,246.67
2	An authorised New South Wales official certifies that the midpoint of a specified Project, as defined in Schedule 1 has been achieved	By 7 June 2013, subject to such certification being made by the authorised official by 28 April. 2013.	Up to \$1,549,246.67 for new Projects and up to \$1,278,377.50 for previously agreed Projects (brought forward) specified in the Projects Submission.
3	An authorised New South Wales official certifies that a specified Project, as defined in Schedule 1 has been completed	By 07 July 2013, subject to such certification being made by the authorised official by 31 May 2013.	Up to \$1,549,246.67 for new Projects and up to \$1,278,377.50 for previously agreed Projects (brought forward) specified in the Projects Submission.

Sign off

17. The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

Signature



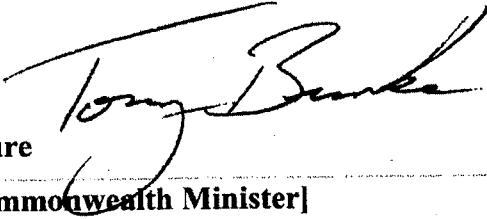
Date

15.4.13

[By State Minister]

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Signature



Date

28.6.13

[By Commonwealth Minister]