

Queensland Implementation Plan for the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative Phase 3 - 2011-2012

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 \$46.5 million to Queensland (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 (noting that the Commonwealth acknowledges that, to the end of the second phase of the Program, the State's water allocation policy for the Great Artesian Basin, which is specified in the Water Resource (Great Artesian Basin) Plan 2006, is consistent with the retention of at least 70 per cent of the water saved for restoring pressure); 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. If the geographical location of the watered area on the property supported by the new controlled watering system is altered by a Project.

Part 2: Terms of this Implementation Plan

3. This Implementation Plan will commence as soon as it is agreed between the State of Queensland, represented by the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines and the Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, or relevant Minister 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 Queensland'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 prescribed in Clause 3.
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 Queensland 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/or 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 Projects are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Proposed Projects

Zone	Barcaldine	Flinders	Surat	Warrego	Management Monitoring and Reporting (State-wide)	TOTAL
Number of Proposed Projects	20	9	3	5	1	38

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 \$3.858 million to the State for Projects. All payments are exclusive of GST.

11. The estimated overall budget is 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 by Zone

	Barcaldine	Flinders	Surat	Warrego	Management Monitoring and Reporting (State-wide)	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Total estimated budget	5,156,263	2,059,061	1,545,000	1,264,999	500,000	10,525,323
<i>less</i> estimated Commonwealth contribution	1,872,500	794,000	544,000	397,000	250,000	3,857,500
<i>equals</i> estimated balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	3,283,763	1,265,061	1,001,000	867,999	250,000	6,667,823

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. The Commonwealth has a risk management plan 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 Queensland Water Resource (Great Artesian Basin) Plan 2006;

- b) protection of Queensland GAB springs;
- c) protection of water remote areas in Queensland.

Part 4: Performance and reporting arrangements

Milestones

16. To qualify for the associated payment, the State must meet the milestones set out in Table 2.

Table 2: Milestones

Milestone Number	Milestone	Performance indicator	Date for payment on completion of performance benchmark	Payment
1	Project designs completed and incorporated into the annual Implementation Plan	Satisfactory Implementation Plan submitted by Queensland agreed to by Commonwealth Minister	Within 60 days of Commonwealth Minister's agreement	One third of the Commonwealth's share of the total cost of all Projects agreed under the Implementation Plan
2	Queensland completes specified activities for a Project contained in the agreed Projects Submission provided in addition to the Implementation Plan	Authorised Queensland official certifies that the agreed specified activity (that approximates the midpoint of the Project) has been completed in accordance with the agreed Projects Submission	By 28 June 2012, subject to such certification being made by the authorised official by 31 May 2012.	One third of the Commonwealth's share of the total cost of the agreed Project specified in the Projects Submission
3	Queensland completes a Project contained in the agreed Projects Submission provided in addition to the Implementation Plan	Authorised Queensland official certifies that a specified Project has been completed in accordance with the agreed Projects Submission	By 28 June 2012, subject to such certification being made by the authorised official by 31 May 2012.	One third of the Commonwealth's share of the total cost of the agreed Project specified in the Projects Submission

Sign off

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

Signature

Date

[By State Minister]

Signature

Date

[By Commonwealth Minister]

Sign off

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

Signature 
[By State Minister]

Date 30/5/2012.

Signature 
[By Commonwealth Minister]

Date 5.6.12.