

Queensland Implementation Plan for the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative Phase 3 – 2012-2013

Part A

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,

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	Central	North West	Management Monitoring and Reporting (State-wide)	TOTAL
Number of Proposed Projects	16	17	1	7		5	1	47

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 \$4,091,000 to the State for 2012/2013 Projects. The Commonwealth will also provide the outstanding Milestone 3 payment of \$1,285,833 to the State for 2011/2012 Projects. All payments are exclusive of GST.

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	Central	North West	Management Monitoring and Reporting (State-wide)	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Commonwealth Milestone 3 contribution to 2011-12 Projects	624,167	264,667	181,333	132,333			83,333	1,285,833
2012 – 13 projects	4,199,167	3,441,667	437,500	1,485,000		800,000	500,000	10,863,334
Total estimated budget	4,823,334	3,706,334	618,833	1,617,333		800,000	583,333	12,149,167
<i>less</i> Commonwealth Milestone 3 payment for 2011-12 Projects:	624,167	264,667	181,333	132,333			83,333	1,285,833
<i>less estimated</i> Commonwealth contributions to 2012-13 projects:	1,628,000	1,245,000	175,000	493,000		300,000	250,000	4,091,000
<i>equals</i> estimated balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	2,571,167	2,196,667	262,500	992,000		500,000	250,000	6,772,334

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 3.

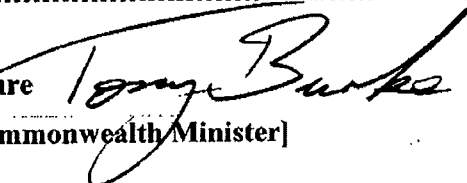
Milestone Number	Milestone	Performance indicator	Date for payment on completion of performance benchmark	Payment
1a)	Queensland has certified all Projects contained in the agreed 2011/2012 Projects Submission are complete	Authorised Queensland official certifies that a specified Project has been completed in accordance with the agreed Projects Submission	Within 60 days of Commonwealth Minister's agreement	\$1,285,833
1b)	Project designs completed and incorporated into the 2012/2013 Implementation Plan	Satisfactory Implementation Plan submitted by Queensland agreed to by Commonwealth Minister	Within 60 days of Commonwealth Minister's agreement	\$1,363,667
2	Queensland completes specified activities for a Project contained in the agreed 2012/2013 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 21 June 2013, subject to such certification being made by the authorised official by 31 May 2013	\$1,363,667
3	Queensland completes a Project contained in the agreed 2012/2013 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 7 July 2013, subject to such certification being made by the authorised official by 31 May 2013	\$1,363,666

Sign off

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

Signature 
 [By State Minister]

Date 13/5/2013

Signature 
 [By Commonwealth Minister]

Date 28.6.13

Part B - Projects Submission

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
ON THE GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

Projects

Summary and duration of Projects

- A1 All Projects involve either the replacement of an existing bore drain with a piped reticulation system (piping) or the rehabilitation of an uncontrolled bore by drilling a replacement bore and decommissioning the original (redrill & plug). It is anticipated that all Projects included in this submission will be completed in the 2012-2013 financial year.

Aim of Projects

- A2 The aim of the submitted Projects is to achieve water savings and aid in recovering pressure in the Great Artesian Basin (GAB).

Project Requirements

- A3 All Projects will contribute in the following ways to the outcomes of the National Partnership Agreement:
- achieving water savings and contributing towards pressure recovery in the GAB 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
 - promoting sustainable water and land management practices through the education and training of participating landholders in the operation and maintenance of the proposed infrastructure.

Project Details

- A4 Details for the proposed Projects are provided in Tables 1a, 1b and 1c, which should be read in conjunction with the following information:

- 'GABSI' means Phase 3 of the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative.
- Table 1a (Annexure 1) contains a list of the proposed Projects for 2012-2013. For all piping Projects, the approximate midpoint can be considered to be the point where all required materials for the Project have been delivered on-site. At this point approximately 90% of the cash costs for a piping Project have been incurred. Cash costs are considered to be the total cost of the Project minus the landholder's in-kind contribution to installation. Please note that for redrill and plug Projects, there is no approximate midpoint. The payment associated with milestone 2 for these Projects will be requested in addition to the payment associated with milestone 3 upon Project completion.

The average cost of rehabilitation works has increased marginally from 2011-2012 and can be attributed to the increased cost of materials and drilling contractors. It is also important to note that the depth of bores across the GAB varies markedly and this can greatly affect the average cost of rehabilitation works on an annual basis.

- Table 1b (Annexure 1) is not populated as there are no Projects proposed in 2012/2013 that are targeted toward pressure recovery at specific high-value springs. It should be noted that typically all projects will have some benefit to springs (through pressure recovery), but we have chosen not to try and quantify this.
- Table 1c (Annexure 1) outlines the cost of managing, monitoring and reporting against the entire program.
- The State will prepare the Performance Report for 2012-2013 in a form similar to that outlined at Annexure 2 with actual data for volumes of water saved, length of drain replaced, length of piping

performance report will provide comments as to the completion of projects.

- The Performance Report will be used by the Commonwealth to assess Performance under this Implementation Plan and to inform itself in relation to its assessments of subsequent Implementation Plans.

Additional Information

A5 Additional information about the estimation of water savings, the process for determining voluntary interest, eligibility, application of the available subsidy and quality assurance is contained in table 1d (Annexure 1).

