



## Great Artesian Basin—organisations involved with management in Queensland

This fact sheet outlines some of the water management programs being undertaken to ensure the sustainable management of groundwater within the Great Artesian Basin (GAB). The key contacts and details of where to go for further information about these programs, including those where financial assistance is available to landholders, are included.

Through diligent and sustainable management of the Great Artesian Basin, we will ensure that future generations will continue to benefit from this reliable water source.

### Planning and management

The Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW) undertakes water planning and regulatory functions in the GAB. NRW developed the *Water Resource (Great Artesian Basin) Plan 2006*, which is implemented through the Great Artesian Basin Resource Operations Plan 2006. These plans provide a framework for sustainable groundwater allocation and management of the GAB.

The plans provide opportunities to permanently trade water through the relocation of water licences and make available new water in accordance with established criteria. They also outline requirements for the protection of springs and existing groundwater users by maintaining and improving long-term trends in water pressure.

For more information on GAB planning, policy, management and unallocated water reserves, visit the NRW website: <[www.nrw.qld.gov.au](http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au)> or telephone NRW on 13 13 04.

### Annual report

Annual reporting provides regular information about the GAB water resource plan. The report provides an annual overview of water management in the Queensland GAB, including information about water authorisations, water use, water sharing rules, monitoring information, and trading.

You can download the *Annual report for water resource plans* from the NRW website.

### The Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative

The Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (GABSI) provides landholders the opportunity to access financial assistance to rehabilitate uncontrolled bores and replace bore drains with piped distribution watering systems.

For more information about GABSI in Queensland see fact sheet W69—*The Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative*.

### Springs and wetlands

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Australian Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts are lead agencies in the Queensland wetlands program.

The Queensland wetlands program provides comprehensive mapping and classification of wetlands, including GAB springs. The program also provides WetlandInfo—an information resource on Queensland wetlands, including conservation status, cultural heritage, threatened flora and fauna, monitoring and management of spring wetlands.

For more information on GAB wetlands and springs, visit the EPA website: <[www.epa.qld.gov.au](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au)> or telephone the EPA on (07) 3006 4621.

### Nature refuge agreements

The EPA can assist in assessing the condition of springs and develop cultural heritage management plans and nature refuge agreements (NRAs). NRAs recognise a landholder's commitment to protecting the natural and cultural values of their land in perpetuity. NRAs also provide landholders with financial incentives, technical assistance and support.

For further information about nature refuge agreements, please visit the EPA website.

### Primary industries assistance

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) provides assistance in grazing and land management, which includes planning for the best location of water points and practical monitoring of the results of grazing management decisions.



One-day stocktake workshops address paddock scale monitoring of land condition, calculating seasonal feed budgets and estimating long-term carrying capacity.

Grazing land management workshops offer nationally accredited training through Meat and Livestock Australia's EDGENetwork. These three-day workshops cover grazing, fire, and weed management, optimising the tree-grass balance and creating a property grazing plan for future success. Planning includes best practice development options for locating water points and fence lines.

For more information visit the DPI&F website: <[www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au)> and search for 'stocktake', or telephone the DPI&F Business Information Centre on 13 25 23.

### **Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority**

The Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA) administers state and federal approved schemes that provide financial support for Queensland primary producers and small businesses.

QRAA schemes include resource management loans, which can assist with activities such as establishing additional water points for the effective use of pasture resources, fencing for landcare purposes, and controlling exotic weeds and animals.

For more information, visit the QRAA website: <[www.qraa.qld.gov.au](http://www.qraa.qld.gov.au)> or telephone 1800 623 946.

### **Natural Resource Management bodies**

Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies are responsible for promoting better management of Australia's natural resources. They develop regional NRM plans and organise on-ground works and community events.

NRM bodies represent a wide range of interests including the local community, landcare groups, traditional owners, local government and industry groups.

NRM bodies can assist in funding opportunities and technical advice for best practice management to adequately protect and manage the GAB.

### **Queensland NRM bodies contacts**

#### **Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Groups Collective**

[www.rgc.org.au](http://www.rgc.org.au)

(07) 4699 5000

#### **Condamine Alliance**

[www.condaminealliance.com.au](http://www.condaminealliance.com.au)

(07) 4620 0102

#### **Desert Channels Queensland**

[www.dcq.org.au](http://www.dcq.org.au)

(07) 4658 0600

#### **Queensland Murray Darling Committee**

[www.qmdc.org.au](http://www.qmdc.org.au)

(07) 4637 6201

#### **South West NRM Ltd**

[www.southwestnrm.org.au](http://www.southwestnrm.org.au)

(07) 4654 7382

#### **Southern Gulf Catchments**

[www.southerngulf.com.au](http://www.southerngulf.com.au)

(07) 4743 1888 or 1800 676 242

*July 2008*

*W150*

*For further information phone 13 13 04*