



Office Use Only		Submission No.
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## How to fill out this form

Use this form to comment on the proposed changes to the water sharing plan for the NSW Great Artesian Basin Groundwater Sources. Key issues and proposed changes are provided below. Details of the proposed changes are in the various fact sheets, available here: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/gab-groundwater-water-sources-components-for-consultation](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/gab-groundwater-water-sources-components-for-consultation). More detailed comments are welcomed as attachments. Send completed submissions to:

**Post: Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
NSW Great Artesian Basin Groundwater Sources WSP Comments  
Locked Bag 10, Grafton, NSW 2460**  
**Email: [gab.gw.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gab.gw.wsp@dpie.nsw.gov.au)**

**Note: Submissions close 30 March 2020**

### Information on privacy and confidentiality

Submissions received by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for the proposed changes will be considered by the Department and the Interagency Water Planning and Policy Working Group to review and inform the draft plan. The Department values your input and accepts that information you provide may be private and personal.

If you want your submission or your personal details be treated as confidential, please indicate this by ticking the relevant box below. Be aware that the Department may be required by law to release copies of submissions to third parties in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

**I would like my submission to be treated as confidential**  Yes  No

**I would like my personal details to be treated as confidential**  Yes  No

**Name**

**Postal Address**

P/C

**Telephone**

**Email Address**

**Stakeholder Group**  
(please indicate which of the following best represents your interest by ticking one box)

<input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Interests	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Interest	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment Interests
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Interests	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Landholder	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Local Govt./ Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	

**Attach extra pages if required.**

## Revision of the objectives, strategies and performance indicators

The proposed new objectives, strategies and performance indicators deal with similar matters to the previous ones, but have been changed to:

- Have stronger logical connection, and
- More clearly distinguish between the environmental, economic, social and Indigenous cultural objectives of the water sharing plan

## Extraction limits and planned environmental water

The long term average annual extraction limit (LTAAEL) is set to manage annual extraction and to ensure that water users and the environment are protected.

- In the recharge groundwater sources (Eastern Recharge and Southern Recharge), recharge estimates have been revised which has resulted in an increase to the LTAAEL and planned environmental water
- In the artesian groundwater sources (Surat, Warrego, Central), the LTAAEL has been updated to incorporate new knowledge and information; however the intent of the 2008 LTAAEL has been maintained.
- Definition of the way planned environmental water is specified in the water sharing plan has been changed to make the definition more accurate

More information on extraction limits and planned environmental for the recharge and artesian groundwater sources can be found in supporting Factsheets available here: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/gab-groundwater-water-sources-components-for-consultation](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/gab-groundwater-water-sources-components-for-consultation)

## Updates of estimated water requirements

The water sharing plan has been updated to include the most current information for:

- Domestic and stock right requirements
- Native title determination
- Share components of the categories of licences provided for in the plan

The Department has used a revised method to estimate basic landholder rights. More information on this revised method can be found in a supporting factsheet and method report, available here: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/gab-groundwater-water-sources-components-for-consultation](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/gab-groundwater-water-sources-components-for-consultation)

## Setback distance rules

Rules are to be standardised across aquifers to provide additional protection to groundwater-dependent ecosystems, groundwater-dependent culturally significant sites and protection from contamination.

Information on these distance rules is available in a supporting Factsheet here: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/gab-groundwater-water-sources-components-for-consultation](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/gab-groundwater-water-sources-components-for-consultation)

## Mandatory Conditions

Two new mandatory conditions are proposed relating to headworks on bores.

Information on these mandatory conditions is available in a supporting Factsheet here: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/gab-groundwater-water-sources-components-for-consultation](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/gab-groundwater-water-sources-components-for-consultation)

## Schedule of Springs

A high priority groundwater-dependent ecosystems (springs) table has been updated to include additional springs, as well as the appropriate names and geographic location of springs.

Information on Identifying and protecting groundwater-dependent ecosystems in the Great Artesian Basin is available in a Factsheet here: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/gab-groundwater-water-sources-components-for-consultation](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/gab-groundwater-water-sources-components-for-consultation)

## Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystem Map

The mapped extent of the high-priority vegetation groundwater-dependent ecosystems on the GDE map has been added.

Information on Identifying and protecting groundwater-dependent ecosystems in the Great Artesian Basin is available in a Factsheet here: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/gab-groundwater-water-sources-components-for-consultation](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/gab-groundwater-water-sources-components-for-consultation)

## Other Comments