



The Hon. David Littleproud MP

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 10 October 2018

Have your say on the future of the Great Artesian Basin

- Consultation on management of the Great Artesian Basin extended
- Public meetings being run and submissions accepted until 9 November
- Rural communities across the Basin encouraged to have their say

Outback communities will have further opportunities to have their say about the future of the Great Artesian Basin with consultation on a Strategic Management Plan extended until 9 November.

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources David Littleproud said the extension came after successful community meetings in NSW, SA and the NT.

“The Great Artesian Basin is the most important resource in the outback,” Minister Littleproud said.

“Its water supports more than 180,000 people, 7,600 businesses and \$13 billion in economic activity.

“The drought makes it even more important we get management of the Great Artesian Basin right.

“That’s why we’re investing an extra \$36.9 million over six years to increase water security in the Basin.

“It’s also why we’re extending the consultation period for the Strategic Management Plan by five weeks.

“The feedback we’ve had so far shows clear support for this plan.

“The extension will let us gather important feedback across Queensland.

“This is a chance for rural communities to guarantee water for generations to come and I encourage everyone in the basin to have their say.”

More information is available on the [department’s website](#) for those who want to get involved, or contact the committee at gabsecretariat@agriculture.gov.au.

Fast Facts:

- The Strategic Management Plan has seven principles which cover environment, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander access, cultural heritage, water security for communities and businesses, water sharing between states and territories, and regulatory reform.
- Consultation meetings in Qld are planned for
 - Brisbane – 5 October 2018
 - Roma – 12 October 2018
 - Cunnamulla – 17 October 2018
 - Stamford - Desert Channels Queensland field day – 31 October 2018