

NSW Groundwater Strategy - Stakeholder survey

Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback on the draft NSW Groundwater Strategy.

Groundwater is water found underground in rock formations called aquifers and is an important resource for NSW. For more information about groundwater, [visit the department's website](#).

The draft strategy sets a long-term vision and direction for groundwater management in NSW.

This survey aims to gather your opinion about the draft strategy. Your comments will help us identify community views and key areas of interest and help us to develop the final strategy.

This survey will close on **Sunday 14 August 2022 at 11.59pm (AEST)**.

The survey is structured according to the draft strategy's main chapters:

- Introduction and general overview of groundwater resources and management in NSW.
- Strategic Priority 1 – Protect groundwater resources and the ecosystems that depend on them in the strategy.
- Strategic Priority 2 – Build community and industry resilience through sustainable groundwater use (this part of the survey also includes an opportunity for Aboriginal people to provide cultural-specific feedback).
- Strategic Priority 3 – Improve groundwater management decisions with better information.

Confidentiality preferences - Publishing your submission

Please indicate if you give permission for your submission to be published on the department's website, and whether you give permission to be identified as the author of the submission or wish to remain anonymous.

I give permission for the department to publish my name with my submission on the department's website.

I do not give permission for the department to publish my name with my submission on the department's website. In selecting this option, I understand that my submission will be published anonymously.

I do not give permission to publish my submission at all.

Sharing your submission within the department

Please indicate if you give permission for your name and email to be included when sharing survey response data internally within the department.

- I give permission for my name and email to be shared within the department.
- I do not give permission for my name and email to be shared within the department. In selecting this option, I understand that my submission will be shared anonymously.

Your submission

If you would like to provide additional feedback in an attached document, please add it to this submission when you return the survey.

Please note, if you wish to remain anonymous, please do not include personal information in your attachment.

If you would prefer to email your feedback or if you have any enquiries, please email the department at nsw.groundwaterstrategy@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

Data privacy

The Department of Planning and Environment is subject to the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* in managing your personal information. In the interests of transparency, the department's website intends to publish all feedback received on its website. You can choose to have your feedback published anonymously or not published at all. Please review our [privacy statement](#) for further information.

Introduction and overview of groundwater resources and management in NSW

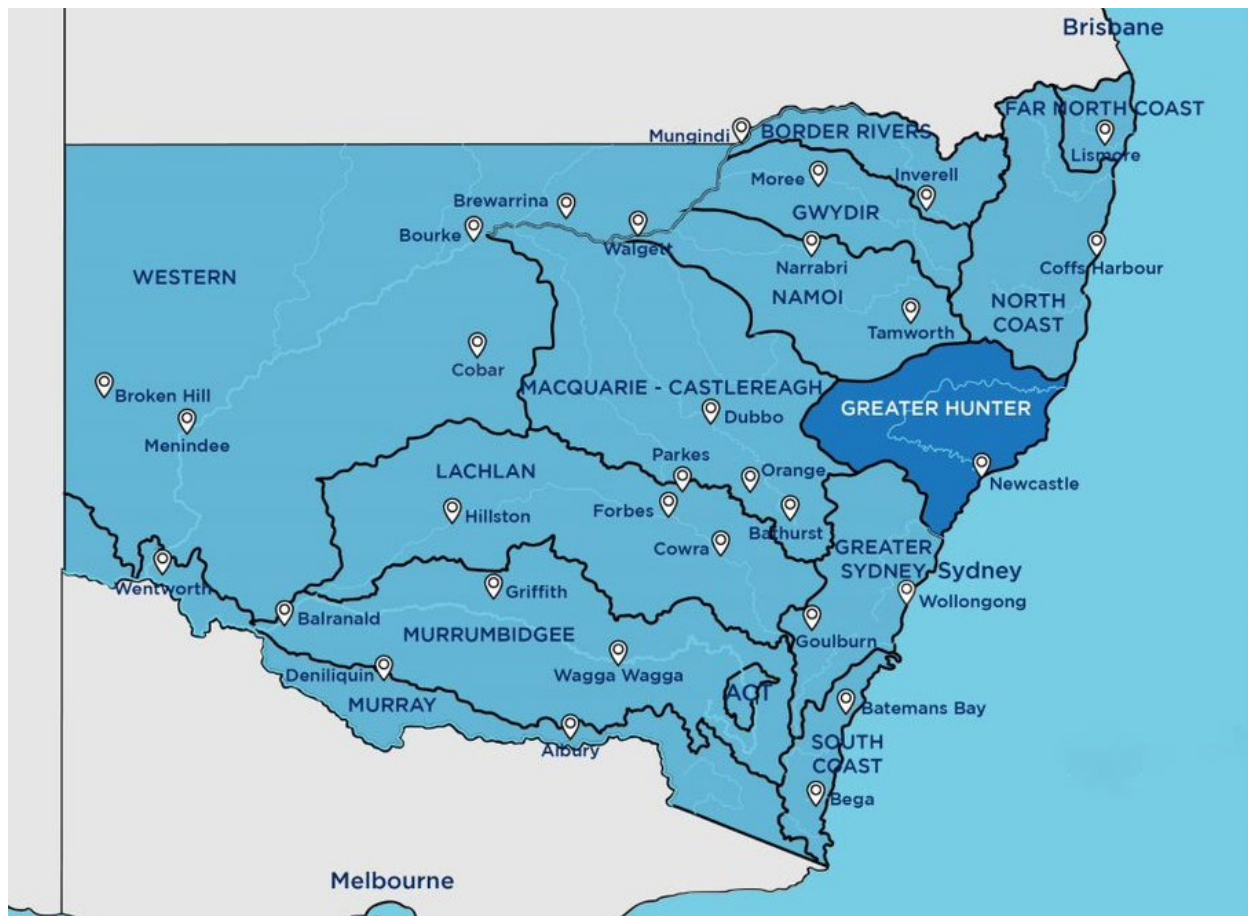
Groundwater is water found below the ground in rock formations called aquifers. Groundwater is also used for a multitude of purposes in NSW such as agriculture, town water supply, and also to sustain important ecosystems.

Thinking about your relationship to groundwater, which of the following user groups or parts of the community best describes you? (please select only one)

- General public
- Local Council / Local water utility
- NSW Government department
- Australian Government department
- Domestic and stock
- Agriculture
- Industry
- Manufacturing
- Research / academia
- Environmental group
- Other (please specify) Artesian Bore Water Users Association of NSW Inc.

In NSW, there are almost 80 groundwater sources west of the Great Dividing Range and over 450 sources on the coast.

Based on the 13 NSW regions outlined in the map below, in which region are you located?



Choose your region

- Border Rivers
- Far North Coast
- Greater Hunter
- Greater Sydney
- Gwydir
- Lachlan
- Macquarie-Castlereagh
- Murray
- Murrumbidgee
- Namoi
- North Coast
- South Coast
- Western

Groundwater is an important resource for NSW. It is used for town water supply, agriculture in the Namoi for example, or industry in the Hunter Valley.

How important is it for you to access groundwater as a resource?

- Not at all important
- Of minor importance
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important

To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (please select one response per row)

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
Groundwater is important for basic human needs (drinking, cooking)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Groundwater is important for stock watering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Groundwater is important for Aboriginal communities and Country	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Groundwater is important for agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Groundwater is important for the environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Groundwater is important for industrial businesses (including mining)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Groundwater is important for manufacturing (water bottling, food processing and others)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Groundwater in NSW currently provides close to 10% of water used for town supply, and over 70% for agriculture, as well as supporting a range of ecosystems. In the context of a growing population and climate change, please answer the following questions.

Please indicate what you think NSW's groundwater needs will look like over the next 20-40 years.

- The same
- Less than current needs
- More than current needs
- Not sure

Which part/s of the community do you think will have the greatest change in their groundwater needs in the future?

Select all that apply.

- Households
- Agriculture
- Industry
- Manufacturing
- Towns and cities
- Aboriginal communities and Country
- Ecosystems dependent on groundwater
- Not sure
- I don't believe there will be any change

Do you think you should change the way you will use groundwater in the future?

- Yes, I've already begun to change my groundwater usage habits
- Yes, I've started doing research and am in the process of making changes
- I've thought about it, but have done nothing more
- No, it hasn't even crossed my mind
- I don't use groundwater

How well do you know the NSW groundwater management framework, rules and legislation?

- Not at all
- Not well at all
- Unsure
- Well
- Very well

The Draft NSW Groundwater Strategy identifies 4 key issues affecting change in groundwater management in NSW.

Please rank these issues from most important to least important, where 1 = Most important and 4 = Least important.

- 1_____ Our climate is changing, and groundwater recharge and demands will be affected by this
- 1_____ The risks to groundwater from development and land use change are increasing
- 2_____ Community notions of sustainability and fair access to groundwater have evolved over time
- 1_____ Our understanding of groundwater, its behaviour and use is improving

With relation to the GAB the science needs to be independently verified and improved and expanded. The three issues with a number 1 above all come under the same 'science' banner. Understanding groundwater, changing climate and risks all need to be independently scientifically proven, understood and acted upon. The community has started to understand the importance of our water and further dry periods will only increase the cry for sustainability and health of our groundwater. Licensing needs to take into account the sustainability of the proposed industry. Agriculture is sustainable forever if managed correctly. Mining can have short term economic benefits but at what cost. Long term dewatering of aquifers, increased salt loads, probable contamination (has already happened). This can not be undone once done. Polluted aquifers can not be 'cleaned'. Sustainability for future generations needs to be paramount.

Please tell us of any other challenges that are affecting groundwater management in NSW.

In the following sections of this survey, you will be asked questions based on each of the draft NSW Groundwater Strategy priorities. [You can read the draft strategy on our website.](#)

Strategic Priority 1 – Protect groundwater resources and the ecosystems that depend on them

Strategic Priority 1 aims to sustain our groundwater resources for current and future uses and protect our important ecosystems that depend on groundwater.

In priority 1 of the draft strategy, 4 key challenges affecting groundwater resources and the ecosystems that depend on them are identified.

Please rank these challenges in order of importance, where 1 = Most important and 4 = Least important.

- 1_____ Our policy framework for sustainable groundwater management needs to be updated to be more responsive to emerging challenges such as climate change
- 2_____ Ecosystems that depend on groundwater face increased threats such as intensive groundwater extraction and pollution
- 4_____ There is a lack of integration between groundwater, surface water and land management
- 3_____ Threats to groundwater quality are growing and need to be addressed

Please tell us any other challenges you think will affect the protection of groundwater resources and the ecosystems that depend on them.

Policy framework needs to be updated with transparent stakeholder involvement. Not having 'tick the box' meetings when there is no feedback to questions on notice or further information provided. MAR needs to be independently researched and proven safe taking into account the value of stygofauna etc in the water cycle. This can not be 'made good' if pollution or adverse biological effects become apparent down the track. Remember connectivity between aquifers!

How important for you is the protection of groundwater resources and the ecosystems that depend on them?

- Not at all important
- Of minor importance
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important

The department has put forward a range of draft actions to increase the protection of groundwater resources and the ecosystems that depend on them. The following questions will review each of the draft actions and their sub-actions.

Action 1.1 - Refresh and expand our approach to sustainable groundwater management by reviewing and updating our groundwater policy and planning framework.

To what extent do you agree with this draft action?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

Action 1.2 - Better integrate groundwater management with other land and water management processes.

To what extent do you agree with this draft action?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

How important to you are each of the following sub-actions required under Action 1.2?

	Not at all important	Of minor importance	Neutral	Important	Very important
Refresh and expand our approach to sustainable groundwater management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Manage groundwater and surface water together	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Integrate groundwater considerations into land use planning decisions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve management of large developments impacting groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Strengthen cross-border groundwater management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action 1.3 - Improve management and protection of groundwater dependent ecosystems and baseflows to streams.

To what extent do you agree with this draft action?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

How important to you are each of the following sub-actions required under Action 1.3?

	Not at all important	Of minor importance	Neutral	Important	Very important
Review and update our approach to protecting groundwater dependent ecosystems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deliver a program to improve our understanding of groundwater dependent ecosystems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action 1.4 - Review and update approaches to sustainable groundwater extraction.

To what extent do you agree with this draft action?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

How important to you are each of the following sub-actions required under Action 1.4?

	Not at all important	Of minor importance	Neutral	Important	Very important
Review groundwater source extraction limits using new knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Better manage impacts of extraction at a local level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve clarity around management of groundwater sources with a low long-term entitlement share value	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action 1.5 - Protect groundwater quality within natural limits.

To what extent do you agree with this draft action?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

How important to you are each of the following sub-actions required under Action 1.5?

	Not at all important	Of minor importance	Neutral	Important	Very important
Review and update our approach to managing groundwater quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deliver a program to better understand groundwater quality and risks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please tell us any other suggested actions you think we should consider in Strategic Priority 1.

Queries or thoughts:
 1.2 - important if not designed to cut red tape on 'risky' projects allowing easier approval and increased risk of pollution/ over extraction/ changing water flows etc.
 Box 4 last line to include towns.
 1.2.2 paragraph 4 - existing or improved planning & tools?
 1.4 para 2 #44 - very limited review, less than a third/quarter (?) of the state.
 Action 1.4 - more must be done to control over allocation and buy back licenses especially in the GAB Eastern recharge. Entitlements more than twice the LTAAEL are not fair, sustainable and should not be possible and needs to be fixed.
 1.5 - definition of natural limits - it must be transparent and measurable.

Strategic Priority 2 – Build community and industry resilience through sustainable groundwater use

Strategic Priority 2 aims to improve water security through the sustainable use of groundwater by urban populations, water dependent cultural, spiritual and economic aspirations of Aboriginal people, and support opportunities for other groundwater dependent development.

The strategy identifies 3 key challenges affecting the resilience of communities and industries using groundwater.

Please rank these challenges in order of importance, where 1 = Most important and 3 = Least important.

- 1 _____ Increasing demand for groundwater undermines town water supply
- 2 _____ New and expanding industries need to consider groundwater opportunities and constraints
- 3 _____ Aboriginal rights to and uses of groundwater are not adequately recognised

Please tell us any other challenge you think will affect community and industry resilience in using groundwater.

Changes to BLR could cause much angst to people as this is what they rely on to survive. This is what makes these areas habitable and allows water for people and stock to drink, in many cases the only water. Coming from a government many already do not trust will be a minefield. As has been seen in the Namoi water becomes a commodity that only belongs to the deepest pockets in times of drought. BLR, town and aboriginal water can never become this commodity, only available to the rich. Our constitution says so. Water rights should be tied to land ownership, it never should have become a tradeable commodity.
If no further allocations are available, ie Eastern Recharge, then there is no further opportunity for new industries to come in and buy all the water. Sustainable industries and beneficial use should be more important, not for example mines using water as dust suppression to 'get rid of it'.

How important is it for you that communities and industries using groundwater resources have a reliable and secure supply?

- Not at all important
- Of minor importance
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important

The department has put forward a range of draft actions to increase the resilience of communities and industries using groundwater. The following questions will review each of the draft actions and their sub-actions.

Action 2.1 - Support towns and cities using groundwater to improve their urban planning.

To what extent do you agree with this draft action?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

Action 2.2 - Support economic growth using groundwater.

To what extent do you agree with this draft action?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

How important to you are each of the following sub-actions required under Action 2.2?

	Not at all important	Of minor importance	Neutral	Important	Very important
Provide better information on groundwater opportunities and constraints to communities and industries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Enable the increase of sustainable groundwater use in targeted areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foster innovative groundwater solutions, including Managed Aquifer Recharge (also called 'water banking', to support communities and industries)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action 2.3 - Support Aboriginal rights, values and uses of groundwater.

To what extent do you agree with this draft action?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

How important to you are each of the following sub-actions required under Action 2.3?

	Not at all important	Of minor importance	Neutral	Important	Very important
Increase access to groundwater for Aboriginal people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Protect groundwater-dependent places of significance to Aboriginal communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Better integrate Aboriginal knowledge into groundwater management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The following questions focus on groundwater challenges and opportunities for Aboriginal people in NSW.

Please only answer questions 43 to 51 if you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. If you do not identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, please go to question 52.

A key objective of the NSW Government is to improve groundwater management outcomes for Aboriginal people across the state. We want to ensure that Aboriginal people and their wisdom and knowledge have a greater influence in groundwater planning and management.

You have indicated that you are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. To help us to better plan for and manage groundwater to support Aboriginal rights, interests and access, please answer these additional questions.

Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?

- Aboriginal
- Torres Strait Islander
- Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- Neither
- Prefer not to say

Please tell us what groundwater health and secure groundwater supply means for you, your family, your clan, your Nation.

Please tell us about the changes you have seen in groundwater management in your cultural landscape.

Please indicate which of these cultural opportunities you have seen in action in the way groundwater is managed in NSW.

Select all that apply.

- Cultural wellbeing and healing
- Cultural significance of higher flows to waterways
- Protection and restoration of cultural sites of significance
- Restoring healthy Country
- Cultural ecotourism
- Other (please specify) _____

Please provide any other comments about cultural opportunities or challenges in groundwater management in NSW.

The strategy strives to provide more cultural and economic opportunities for Aboriginal people in relation to groundwater.

What are the most important opportunities for you?

Select all that apply.

- Fairer access to traditional land and resources
- Better contemporary economic opportunities in culture and recreation
- Increased access to employment and commercial opportunities on projects
- Improving awareness of Aboriginal people’s knowledge and contribution to how groundwater is managed in NSW in the next 20-40 years
- Other (please specify) _____

Please provide any other comments about benefits of cultural and economic opportunities and how we realise those benefits in groundwater management and planning in NSW.

This concludes the questions specific to your cultural heritage. If you would like to provide additional material to support your position, please email them along with this document.

Please tell us any other suggested actions you think we should consider in Strategic Priority 2.

As admitted in the information provided there are still huge gaps in the known science around the GAB. Before new technologies, which may or may not be harmful, are trialled much more needs to be known about the 'actuals', how much water there is, quality, recharge rates and water flows. If this information is not known before hand there is no baseline figure to measure these effects.

Similarly, regarding increased water take, the quantity of water in the GAB, recharge rates and water flow and amount of take are all arbitrary figures 'according to an educated guess'. Many previous governments have consistently 'over allocated' water take from all water systems. (GAB eastern recharge over double) which has cost huge amounts of money in buybacks. Before more water is sold the science needs to be shored up to determine exactly what is there and how long it takes to recharge before achieving a short term 'economic benefit' which is worth nothing if there is not quality water left for future generations. The quantity of water is not the only consideration, other factors must all work together such as pressure. Without pressure it becomes uneconomic to pump GAB water in most cases. No further economic benefit and the loss of the current economic and community benefit.

action 2.2 - economic growth must be the right tool in the right area, not at the expense of long term and sustainable industries and community.

Strategic Priority 3 – Improve groundwater management decisions with better information

Strategic Priority 3 aims to support better groundwater management and investment decisions with improved innovation and knowledge.

The strategy identifies 3 key challenges affecting the use of information to manage groundwater resources sustainably.

Please rank these challenges in order of importance, where 1 = Most important and 3 = Least important.

- 1 _____ Being underground and difficult to investigate, information about groundwater is lacking
- 2 _____ There are gaps in our scientific knowledge and research capabilities
- 3 _____ Our groundwater monitoring network is ageing and has limited coverage

Please tell us any other challenge you think is affecting the use of information and data to manage groundwater resources.

The numerous points of information availability, it is simply too hard to find relevant information. Information that was readily available has been moved or taken down. Websites are changed. Searches do not limit to the phrase entered and pages and pages of information come up. Some with the exact phrase are three or more pages in.
 There is very limited trust in the dept by bore owners to either help them collect data or believe the data presented.
 Placement of monitoring infrastructure in the correct places which collects data which is meaningful.
 Some data is very hard to read or find exactly what you are looking for. I am aware it is scientific data but maybe two options need to be available. The basic one then the one which more experienced users can extrapolate what they want by picking the layers that they require.

How important is it for you to have access to more information and data about groundwater management and use?

- Not at all important
- Of minor importance
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important

How interested are you in finding out more about how groundwater is managed and used?

- Not at all interested
- Of minor interest
- Neutral
- Interested
- Very interested

What ways could the department use to communicate with you and others in your community about groundwater management?

The department has previously shot itself in the foot and has an enormous way to go to make up to stakeholders. Staff complain about 'getting bums on seats' but when people do actually take the time to turn up at meetings they ask questions regarding the relevant topic and these questions are 'taken on notice'. Even when these information sessions are in regard to submissions the dept wants completed they do not provide any answers to the questions as promised. People then don't bother completing the submission as no-one is listening and they sure do not turn up to any more meetings. This also wastes the time of people in organizations such as ABWUA as they spend considerable time ringing & emailing people to get them to attend. The common response is 'why bother, they aren't listening'? There is such a lack of transparency in water dealings with the dept that people do not trust what they are told. So much more could be achieved by working together but with no information or the wrong information there is no trust.

Please tell us what type of information and data about groundwater resources you would like available on our departmental website?

As ABWUA is solely concerned with the GAB, including recharge from other water sources etc, our members would like to see more detailed maps which have towns so you can work out where the zones are. Then maps could show recharge rates, flow lines, estimated storage etc. The ability to zoom in to greater detail on maps is very important. The BOM radar page is great and just has buttons to add towns, railway lines etc which is really easy. I asked for a diagram for distribution and website which shows the interaction between State, Federal and local rules and regulations, WSP, WRP, Acts, MDB plan, strategies etc etc etc. I was laughingly told someone had tried and it was impossible. If it is impossible to draw it how on earth do you expect the lay person on the street to even want to try to understand it? And then this strategy adds another layer of complexity!

The department has put forward a range of draft actions to improve the use of data and information to make groundwater management decisions. The following questions will review each of the draft actions and their sub-actions.

Action 3.1 - Develop a groundwater knowledge plan to improve how we use groundwater information to make decisions.

To what extent do you agree with this draft action?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

Action 3.2 - Better share and integrate groundwater information.

To what extent do you agree with this draft action?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

How important to you are each of the following sub-actions required under Action 3.2?

	Not at all important	Of minor importance	Neutral	Important	Very important
Expand the range of knowledge and insights products including information systems, platforms and interfaces for storing, managing, accessing and interrogating groundwater data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve and diversify how we communicate information on groundwater resources and their management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Support strategic planning and decision-making by councils and groundwater users with improved access to information on groundwater and its management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop a unified framework to consolidate and analyse all groundwater data across all relevant agencies and groundwater users and impacting activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Support data and database integration across agencies to address data gaps and improve customer service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action 3.3 - Improve our understanding of groundwater resources.

To what extent do you agree with this draft action?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

How important to you are each of the following sub-actions required under Action 3.3?

	Not at all important	Of minor importance	Neutral	Important	Very important
Expand our multi-disciplinary understanding of groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve our groundwater models where required	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase our capacity and capability to apply leading groundwater science	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action 3.4 - Expand our groundwater data collection.

To what extent do you agree with this draft action?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

How important to you are each of the following sub-actions required under Action 3.4?

	Not at all important	Of minor importance	Neutral	Important	Very important
Improve our groundwater monitoring infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve our groundwater monitoring programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please tell us any other suggested actions you think we should consider in Strategic Priority 3.

action 3.3.3 - research must be independent, not conducted by bodies with a vested interest in the outcome such as GISERA. Research conducted by a body who stands to gain from favourable answers by researching what they want specific answers to will never be trusted.
 New monitoring bores etc specific to a region and industry should be paid for by the industry ie coal basin monitoring should be paid for by coal companies. There is a difference between paying for and 'undertaking' the research under another name and putting money into a fund that you have no say over that pays for the infrastructure. Independent.

If you have any further feedback, please provide any final comments or upload additional material here.

If you are undertaking a new state wide NSW Groundwater Strategy, why would this not be completed before undertaking smaller regional ones? At least then they can all be in the same format which makes it much easier to understand. Also if the overarching one is bedded down the kinks should be ironed out. The website says there are 20 regional drafts. I want to know if there is one for the GAB so I searched draft regional water strategy <https://www.nsw.gov.au/search?q=draft+regional+water+strategy>. I have got to page three and have only found 8 out of the 20.

Things are very hard to find, things are often taken off the website, you have to know which dept website to look up. One website for a NSW water with a tab for each source with all the information, WSPs, ACT, data etc in one place would be very helpful. Also many maps etc are very complicated to use. I just tried to find a map of mound springs of the GAB. There is one in BOM (federal not state) so I go to that. I use Minview and other programs with no problems but this was very complicated. A simple map of mound springs with locations shouldn't be so hard to find. Everything pertaining to the GAB on one website - wow! Yes this would be even more complicated to go across borders but where there is a will...

This format of submission helps you collate but unless you can add notes in each section it is limiting the information you receive.

On page 4 I can not select GAB as my water source so have ticked all areas of the GAB. Similarly the information at the end, a cross section of our members details is given.

As mentioned previously adding another layer to the complex 'world' of water without combining or deleting some simply makes the whole thing harder to understand and as many people on the ground say 'that is just the way the dept likes it'. The dept really has to build up trust again to achieve the best outcomes.

A printable version of information would be greatly appreciated. Many people can't undertake a reading solely on a computer. A printable version with less pretty photos, no full pages of background ink etc would be greatly appreciated by many. If things are too hard they will just not be done.

Per page 7 - does the 70% for agriculture include stock & domestic?

Two comments regarding water sales. The following comment was raised at a WSP meeting in Moree in 2019. If further water is sold then the people that helped save the pressure and water by capping and piping should be given the first chance to buy the water as they, along with federal and state governments paid considerable sums of money to achieve these savings. A precedent was set at the 2009 GAB water auction in Watgett that we would like to see continued. It was promised that the proceeds of the GAB water auctioned that day would go back in to the Capping and Piping program. We believe any future sales should go towards cap and pipe to ensure these savings are continued as well as relevant, independent research.

I have tried to complete this submission solely regarding the GAB, which is what our members are members of ABWUA for. Questions are answered in this regard. As I am also a bore owner and member of GABAG it is sometimes hard to distinguish one from the other when writing submissions. I do try.

About you

We appreciate your time in responding to this survey. Before you submit your survey response, we would appreciate your feedback to help us more broadly understand our audience. This enables us to communicate more clearly and to customise messages to the community. Please choose 'Prefer not to say', if you would rather not answer a question.

The information you provide will only be used for the purposes of this survey, to assist us in preparing the final NSW Groundwater Strategy and in the development of new groundwater policies and plans for NSW.

Personal information

Please note, your personal information will only be shared if you granted permission for this to occur.

Your business name (if you are responding on behalf of an organisation)

Artesian Bore Water Users Assoc. of NSW Inc.-----

How did you hear about this survey? Select all that apply.

Community group

Department's website

Email or e-newsletter from the department

Newspaper

NSW Government announcement

Radio

Social media - Facebook

Social media - Instagram

Social media - LinkedIn

Television

Word of mouth

Work in the Water industry

Other (please specify) individual email from dept - had not received general information. Had not received info as member of GABAG either.-----

Prefer not to say

What age bracket do you fit into?

- Under 18 years
- 18 - 24 years
- 25 - 34 years
- 35 - 44 years
- 45 - 54 years
- 55 - 64 years
- 65 - 74 years
- 75 + years
- Prefer not to say

How do you describe your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Do you speak a language other than English at home?

- Yes (please specify) _____
- No
- Prefer not to say

Do you identify as a person with a disability?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Enter your postcode:

Thank you for completing this survey. Please email to nsw.groundwaterstrategy@dpie.nsw.gov.au