Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water

Great Artesian Basin Rehabilitation Program

Applicant Guidelines

June 2021

rdmw.qld.gov.au

Queensland Government

This publication has been compiled by the Great Artesian Basin Project Management Office of Basin Implementation, Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.

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Version 1 last updated 21/01/2021

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

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1.0 About the GABRP

The Great Artesian Basin Rehabilitation Program (GABRP) supports the delivery of strategic investments in groundwater infrastructure renewal and related activities to improve sustainable management of the Great Artesian Basin groundwater resources.

A key objective of the GABRP is to recover water and maintain water pressure within the Great Artesian Basin by delivering the following outputs to support a watertight delivery system[1]:

- Replacement, rehabilitation or plugging of legally operating uncontrolled bores;
- Replacement of legally operating open bore drains with controlled watering systems;
- Restoration of bores previously rehabilitated under earlier programs where there has been a critical infrastructure failure.

The GABRP is delivered by the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (the department). The four-year program to June 2024 manages investment from:

- The State and the Commonwealth under the **Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience (IGABDR)** Project Agreement (2020-2024);
- Private industry and philanthropic organisations and individuals under the **Great Artesian Basin Industry Partnership Program (GABIPP)**.

History of water efficiency programs in the Queensland section of the Great Artesian Basin

Seven water efficiency programs have been run since 1989.

More than 1100 projects have been completed.

These projects represent over:

- 717 uncontrolled bores rehabilitated
- 14,618 km of bore drains replaced with controlled watering systems
- 213,000 ML/year estimated water savings

Offers of grant funding depend on individual project value for money and available grant funds.

All projects offered grant funding under the IGABDR project (State/Commonwealth funded) must complete works by mid-April in the same financial year. e.g. for 2021/22 works must be completed by 14 April 2022.

Completion dates for projects offered grant funding under the GABIPP (industry funded program) will vary depending on the terms set out in Contribution Agreements between investors and the department. These dates will be advised on the department's GABRP webpage.

[1] Watertight delivery system is defined in section 29 of the Water Plan (Great Artesian Basin and Other Regional Aquifers) 2017.

Whilst participation in the Great Artesian Basin Rehabilitation Program is voluntary, it is important to be aware that the *Water Plan (Great Artesian Basin and Other Regional Aquifers) 2017 (GABORA)* requires all uncontrolled flowing bores to be controlled and bore drains replaced with controlled watering systems by September 2027.

Private Investment Options

Under section 51 of the GABORA Water Plan, landholders or other parties (by agreement) who fund work on behalf of the landholder to make a bore watertight, are eligible for at least 30% of the water saved as a water licence. **Note -** If a landholder receives grant funding for rehabilitation and piping works under the GABRP they are not eligible to apply for a water licence for the saved water.

From time to time the department may be contacted by external parties interested in investing in bore rehabilitation and piping projects. If you wish to register your interest in accessing third party investment, you may do so by emailing the Great Artesian Basin Project Management Office (GABPMO) directly (contact details in Section 11 of this guideline) or, if applying under these guidelines, by identifying your interest in the tick box at Section 10.3 of the application form. Note, the department will contact you to seek your approval to release your details prior to providing to any third party.

2.0 Eligibility

2.1 Applicant eligibility

Applicants meeting the following criteria are eligible to apply for grant funding under the GABRP:

- Owners or permitted users of legally operating bores in Queensland within the Great Artesian Basin.
- Individuals or entities legally capable of entering into an agreement with:
  - the Queensland Government;
  - other individuals or entities where there is a shared water infrastructure arrangement;
  - a Class 3 driller, a contractor, or suppliers of materials and works.
- Individuals or entities capable of overseeing and implementing the project in accordance with State and national laws and standards (including health and safety and any applicable building codes).
- Where required by the water licence, applicants can provide (or may already have provided) to the department a Bore Management Statement[2] relating to the water bore/s identified in their application.
- A commitment of at least 10% of the estimated total project cost, meaning that applicants may apply for up to 90% of grant funding for eligible projects if value for money criteria are met (see Section 3 of this guideline).

[2] Bore Management Statement, defined in section 34 of the Water Plan (Great Artesian Basin and Other Regional Aquifers) 2017.

2.2 Project eligibility

Water efficiency projects eligible under the GABRP include:

Project	Eligibility Criteria
Rehabilitation, replacement or plugging of old bores legally operating in an **uncontrolled** state (particularly where such works will maintain or improve the flow of water to high value Great Artesian Basin-dependent springs)	• the bore is **uncontrolled**, located in Queensland, and taps the Great Artesian Basin (Figure 1), • the bore is located in Queensland, taps the Great Artesian Basin (Figure 1), has steel production casing and is located in a **designated corrosive area**
Replacement of bore drains with controlled watering systems (piping)	• the bore drain is legal, in use, and the associated bore is located in Queensland and taps the Great Artesian Basin
Integrated watertight delivery systems (i.e. a combination of bore rehabilitation, plugging and piping projects)	• as above
Eligible rehabilitation and/or piping works that demonstrate significant cultural or environmental benefits	• as above
Critical infrastructure failure	• rehabilitation or replacement of a bore previously rehabilitated under earlier programs, which has had a critical infrastructure failure due to the impact of corrosive water in a designated water bore corrosion area/s or a generic failure of technology • Note - poor workmanship, lack of maintenance, or damage caused by stock or equipment are not classed as a critical infrastructure failure

Definitions

Uncontrolled: The total flow from the bore cannot be shut off fully by a gate valve/s, without water leakage at the surface or risk of damage to the bore infrastructure.

Designated water bore corrosive area: These are area/s in which all casing used in a water bore (with the exception of surface control casing) must be manufactured of inert materials. These areas are identified in the *'Minimum standards for construction and reconditioning of water bores that intersect the sediments of artesian basins in Queensland, version 1.02'*.

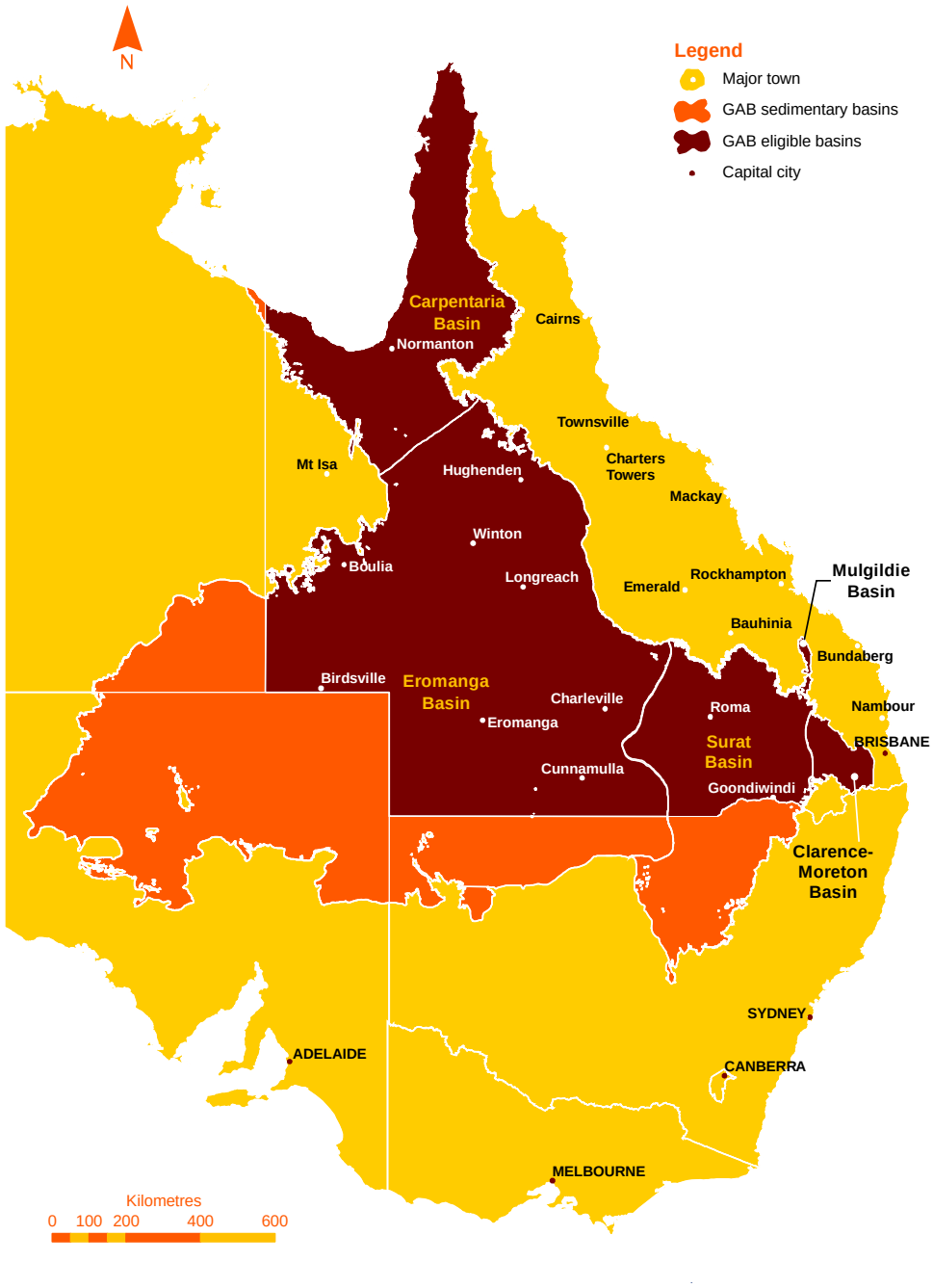

Figure 1 Great Artesian Basin

Mandatory monitoring devices

It is a requirement for all applications to include installation of either a water meter or pressure-monitoring device. The installed water meter must be pattern approved (by the manufacturer) in accordance with requirements of the National Measurement Institute, and installed and operated in accordance with ATS 4747 of the Standards Australia.

2.3 Eligible and ineligible activities and expenses

The GABRP will contribute to activities that are wholly, exclusively and necessarily incurred to meet the program objectives. The following table identifies eligible and ineligible activities. The department will exercise its discretion in determining whether any particular activities are reasonable, seek clarification where needed and set limits on what may be claimed for each activity. Where the applicant wishes to claim expenses for an activity not listed below, prior approval must be obtained in writing from the department.

	Bore rehabilitation works	Controlled watering system works
Eligible activities & expenses	• Flow meter/pressure monitoring device (mandatory, see Section 2.2 of these guidelines) • Pre-works bore flow testing • Geophysical logging • Drilling works by Class 3 drilling contractor • Materials (e.g. muds, casing, headworks etc.) • Applicant administration of 5% of project costs up to $5,500 (inc GST) (e.g. solicitor, accountant, applicant management, contractor management, Q Leave Levy fees and permit fees associated with Development Permit applications, etc.) • Hydrogeological assessment • Construction materials required to build a pad for drilling contractor, e.g. gravel. Labour not included • Telemetry infrastructure	• Flow meter/pressure monitoring device (mandatory, see Section 2.2 of these guidelines) • Pre-works bore flow testing • Engineer costs for design of controlled watering system and RPEQ certification • Materials (e.g. tanks, troughs, pipe etc.), including transport to site • Applicant administration of 5% of project costs up to $5,500 (inc GST) (e.g. solicitor, accountant, applicant management, contractor management, Q Leave Levy fees and permit fees associated with Development Permit applications, etc.) • Self-installation costs (based on winter-bore drain length) or contractor costs for the controlled watering system e.g. pipe laying, tank and trough hook-ups • Telemetry infrastructure
Ineligible activities & expenses	• Expenses associated with deepening the bore asset or redrilling a replacement bore beyond the department's recorded total depth and the associated materials • Stand-down rates by the driller • Transport, unloading, movement, and storage of materials on property • Contractor meals and accommodation • Clearing of tracks and pads	• Work completed on the bore to bring it up to the minimum requirements of the bore construction standards • Transport, unloading, movement, and storage of materials on property • Contractor meals and accommodation • Decommissioning of the replaced bore drain • Clearing of tracks and pads • Materials and associated installation expenses that are in excess of what is required to replace the existing bore drain

3.0 Applying for grant funding

Applicants should obtain independent advice to make a well-informed decision about their application. Prior to applying, it is recommended that applicants should:

- Be familiar with the Applicant Guidelines (this document) and obtain a copy of the GABRP *Form 001 – Grant funding Application* (application form).
- Contact the department for information and guidance on program eligibility and seek guidance on completing the application if required. The department's contact details are provided at Section 11.
- Consult with neighbouring landholders where the works proposed to be undertaken by the applicant has an impact on shared water infrastructure (bore and/or bore drains), for the purposes of:
    - entering into a water sharing agreement if the application is approved; and
    - discussing the impact of the proposed works on the shared water infrastructure.
- Seek advice from rural water engineering specialists; and legal, business and financial advisors.

3.1 Completing the application form

Applicants must answer the questions on the application form sufficiently to allow a full assessment of the application. Incomplete applications may be accepted at the discretion of the department.

The application form can be used to apply under both the IGABDR project and the GABIPP. Applicants have the option of choosing to apply under either one or both of these programs by indicating their preference in the application form at Section 10.3.

Applicants may also lodge multiple applications and identify these as linked applications in Section 1 of the application form.

For more information on preparing a complete and competitive application, refer to the application assessment criteria in Section 4 of these guidelines.

3.1.1 Application Form: Section 1 - Project Details

Applicant to complete this section.

Sections 1.1 to 1.3 can be completed using information taken from the relevant Bore Report. If you are aware of your Bore Number (RN) a copy of your Bore Report should be available at:

https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/water/bores-and-groundwater/bore-reports.

If you are unable to access your Bore Report, you may contact your driller or the department (contact details at Section 11 of this guideline) and request a copy.

Please identify the type of works you are proposing at Section 1.4 and list any linked project applications at Section 1.5.

3.1.2 Application Form: Section 2 – Department Check

Department to complete this section (contact details in Section 11).

Please provide Page 1 of the application form to the GABPMO, once Section 1 has been completed (contact details at Section 11 of this guideline). A pre-works flow may need to be provided to the department at this time (see further details below). Section 2 will be populated and checked by the department.

Bores drilled post 1965

For bores that were drilled after 1 January 1965, the department will undertake a physical assessment of the bore facility. The purpose of this inspection is to ensure that the bore's uncontrolled status is not due to poor maintenance and will determine if the applicant can proceed with making an application for grant funding.

High value springs

The degree of protection to high value natural springs is considered by assessing the proximity of a proposed project to a Great Artesian Basin spring as a secondary criterion. Projects which are less than or equal to 50 kilometres from a designated spring (Figure 3), or can be proven through hydrogeological assessment to benefit a designated spring group, will be considered as providing a degree of protection to those high value natural springs. The department will identify where projects are within 50 kilometres of a high value natural spring at Section 2.7 of the application form.

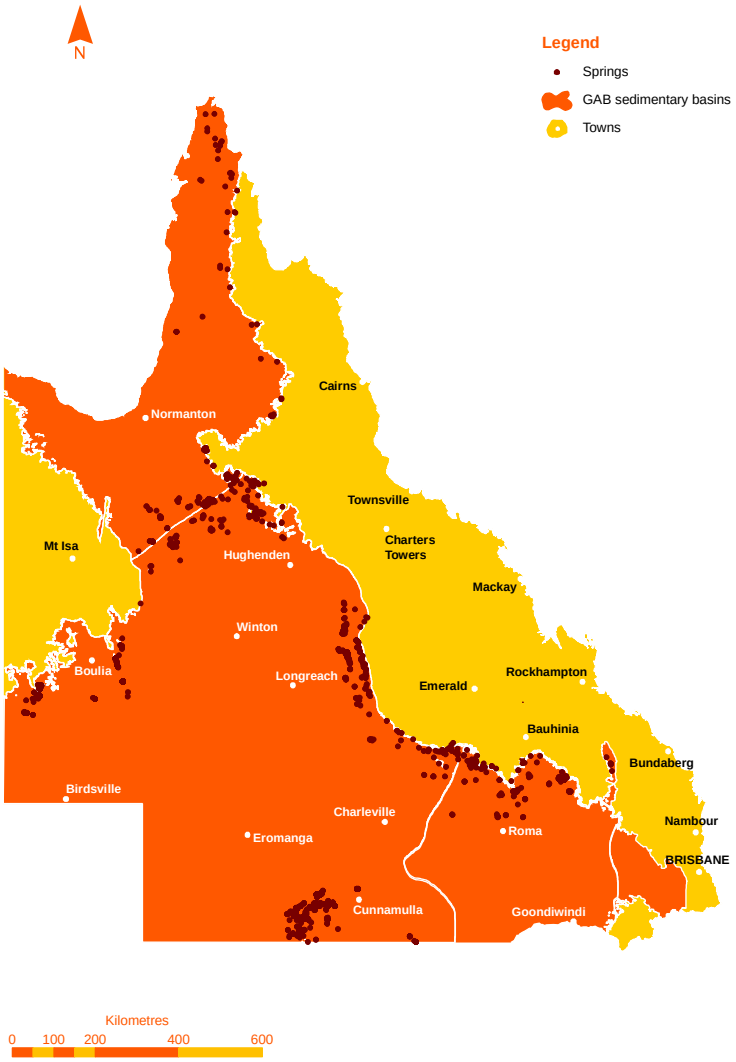

Figure 3 Great Artesian Basin Springs

Pre-works flow

The pre-works flow from an uncontrolled bore is determined by:

1. The department using the current flow rate as listed in the department's groundwater database. A current flow rate is one recorded within the last ten years. If no current flow rate is available, then point 2 below applies.
2. A third party measuring the flow rate, in accordance with the department's requirements (e.g. a third party may be a pump-testing contractor). The applicant is responsible for contracting the third party. A copy of the flow test procedure and data must be provided with the application.

Water licence and licenced bore drain conditions

The department will check that the Water Licence associated with the bore has a current bore drain condition. On completion of the project the applicant must apply to the department to have the bore drain condition removed from the Water Licence.

Calculating estimated flow to be saved (ML/annum)

The following formulas are used to determine the estimated flow to be saved. The flow saved formulas have been derived from projects completed under previous bore capping and piping programs.

To convert litres per second (l/s) to megalitres per annum (ML/annum) either:

- multiply 'l/s' by 31.536, or
- calculate $\frac{\text{'l/s'} \times 60 \times 60 \times 24 \times 365}{1{,}000{,}000}$

Project type / Formula	Example
Applications for rehabilitation only of an uncontrolled bore: **Flow saved = $\frac{\text{pre-works flow}}{3}$**	The bore has a pre-works flow of 9 litres per second = 283.8 megalitres per annum. Flow saved = $\frac{283.8}{3}$ = 94.6 megalitres per annum
Applications for plugging only of an uncontrolled bore: **Flow saved = pre-works flow**	The bore has a pre-works flow of 7 litres per second = 220.8 megalitres per annum. Flow saved = 220.8 megalitres per annum
Applications for rehabilitation only of an uncontrolled bore*, which is already piped: Flow saved = (pre-works flow x 0.866) - flow saved under any earlier programs	The bore has a pre-works flow of 2.0 litres per second = 63.1 megalitres per annum. Flow saved = (63.1 x 0.866) = 54.6 megalitres per annum
Applications for rehabilitation of an uncontrolled bore and replacement of a bore drain with a controlled watering system: Flow saved = (pre-works flow x 0.866) - flow saved under any earlier programs	The bore has a pre-works flow of 2.0 litres per second = 63.1 megalitres per annum. Flow saved = (63.1 x 0.866) = 54.6 megalitres per annum
Applications for replacement of a bore drain only with a controlled watering system:	The bore has a pre-works flow of 9.0 litres per second = 283.8 megalitres per annum, minus 94.6

Flow saved = (pre-works flow x 0.866) - flow saved under any earlier programs	megalitres per annum saved under an earlier program. Flow saved = (283.8 x 0.866) – 94.6 = 151.2 megalitres per annum

** Uncontrolled and piped relates to bores that may have headworks connected to piping that are leaking from the casing or headworks and are unable to be turned off due to the risk of damage to the bore infrastructure.*

Stock routes

The department will provide notice of any stock route water requirement in this section. The contact details for the Stock Routes team within the Department of Resources will be provided to the applicant to begin discussions on stock route water facility requirements for integration into a controlled watering system design if required.

3.1.3 Application Form: Section 3 – Bore Rehabilitation Proposal

A Class 3 driller must complete this section if the applicant is applying for rehabilitation of a bore.

For more information on Qld licensed water bore drillers, please contact the department's Water Bore Drilling Unit on 13 74 68.

The bore rehabilitation application must include a proposal certified by an appropriately licenced Class 3 driller. The driller must certify that the work and materials they are proposing meet the requirements of the 'Minimum standards for the construction and reconditioning of water bores that intersect the sediments of artesian basins in Queensland'. A copy of the standard can be found at:

https://www.resources.qld.gov.au/?a=109113%3Apolicy_registry%2Fminimum-standards-construction-bores-artesian-basin.pdf

When considering which driller to engage, the department recommends that applicants:

1. Verify the driller's licence is current, that the driller has not been disqualified to hold a licence and has not had restrictions imposed on their licence. Driller license checks can be confirmed at drillers.licensing@rdmw.qld.gov.au.
2. Consider the driller's professional reputation and experience. Seek references from previous clients.
3. Contact several Class 3 drillers to compare quotes.
4. Ensure any contract with the driller includes appropriate warranties and other terms and that the driller holds the appropriate insurances.
5. Negotiate payment terms prior to driller engagement, e.g. agree to withhold payment from the contractor until work is completed to the required standards.
6. Consider the driller's ability to meet the project delivery deadlines.

Applicants will also need to apply for development approval for the drilling of a new bore. Further information and support may be found at https://planning.dsdmip.qld.gov.au/planning/resources/regional-contacts

3.1.4 Application Form: Section 4 – Bore Rehabilitation Proposal Budget

Applicant to complete this section.

The bore rehabilitation proposal must include an itemised budget for eligible project activities (e.g. drilling contractor services, materials). Each activity included in the budget must be supported by sufficient evidence as per Table 1 below and be within the limits of grant funding for that particular activity (if capped). Grant funding offered will be based on the approved proposed budget if the application is successful.

Example: Rehabilitation of bore:

Activity/Expense	Budget (including GST)
Pre-works flow testing	$1,000
Construction materials for bore pad (e.g. gravel)	N/A
Drilling contractor works	$225,000
Geophysical log and/or hydrogeological assessment (if required)	$7,000
Telemetry equipment	$1,000
Mandatory Measurement and Monitoring Device	$500
Total	**$234,500**

Table 1 Evidence required with the application

Activity	Evidence	Special conditions
Pre-works flow test	Tax invoice/quote	
Construction materials for bore pad (e.g. gravel)	Quote	
Drilling contractor works (registered Class 3 driller)	Itemised quote (drilling muds, casing, headworks etc.)	
Geophysical log and/or hydrogeological assessment if required	Tax invoice/quote	Tax invoice must be specific to the application

Telemetry infrastructure	Quote	
Mandatory Monitoring Device	Quote	Meets Australian Standards

3.1.5 Application Form: Section 5 – Bore Condition Certification

Applicant to complete this section.

This section should only be completed if the application is for a controlled watering system works **from an existing bore**.

The bore supplying the controlled watering system must meet the requirements of the *'Minimum standards for the construction and reconditioning of water bores that intersect the sediments of artesian basins in Queensland'* ('Minimum Standards'). This is to minimise the risk of the bore failing unexpectedly as a result of the installation of a controlled watering system.

The fitness of the bore is the responsibility of the applicant, and may be determined in the following ways:

A. Where the bore was drilled or rehabilitated prior to 31 December 2010 applicants must demonstrate they have obtained independent expert advice from a suitably qualified professional regarding the fitness of the existing bore and that the bore meets the 'Minimum Standards'. This is to be in the form of a geophysical logging report containing a statement of the Existing Bore's fitness and suitability for that purpose, and its suitability and capability of being connected to the proposed controlled watering system.

B. If grant funding is offered for a controlled watering system project and a geophysical logging report is required under the Funding for Works Deed, applicants may apply for reimbursement of reasonable costs up to $7,000 (inc GST) for the geophysical logging activity and report. The cost of the reimbursement does not form part of the application budget (see Section 8.1 of these guidelines).

C. Where the bore was drilled or rehabilitated after 31 December 2010, applicants may request a Class 3 driller or other appropriately qualified individual to assess the bore in order to identify whether it meets the 'Minimum Standards' and is fit for the purpose of connecting and using the proposed controlled watering system.

D. Where the bore does not meet the 'Minimum Standards' and it is not eligible for rehabilitation, the applicant must arrange for the bore to be brought up to the 'Minimum Standards' at their own expense. The applicant must include details of the proposed work on the bore and timeframes at Annexure 1.

3.1.6 Application Form: Section 6 – Controlled Watering System Works Proposal

A Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland (RPEQ) must complete this section.

The controlled watering system application must include a proposal certified by an RPEQ.

When choosing which contractor to engage, the department recommends that applicants:

- Consider professional reputation and experience and seek references from previous clients.
- Ensure any contract with a contractor or RPEQ includes appropriate warranties and other terms, and that the appropriate insurances are held.
- Negotiate payment terms prior to contractor engagement, e.g. agree to withhold payment from the contractor until work is completed to the required standards.
- Consider the contractor's ability to meet delivery deadlines.

The controlled watering system proposal must include a map of the actual scheme to be installed and be attached to this application. The map (or a combination of maps and supporting documentation) must be drawn to scale and provide the following information:

- lot on plan (title)
- north arrow
- property and paddock boundaries, and paddock names
- location of the bore
- stock numbers per paddock used in the design
- winter bore drain location/s
- existing infrastructure (if applicable)
- water point locations
- air release and scour valve locations
- cooling pond location (if applicable)
- new infrastructure to be installed from the bore. These must be clearly distinguishable and tabulated separately identifying the following:
    - pipe pressure rating, length and sizes
    - tank size and quantities
    - trough sizes and quantities

3.1.7 Application Form: Section 7 – Winter Bore Drain

Applicant to complete this section.

The 'winter bore drain' must be surveyed and details attached to the application. The 'winter bore drain' is measured to the furthest point which water will travel down the delved network of bore drain in winter. A handheld GPS is normally sufficient for this task. Alternative methods for demonstrating bore drain length requires approval by the department in advance.

Only one bore and associated bore drain can be referenced in an application. In instances where multiple bores discharge into a bore drain, the applicant must ensure that the drain length is counted only once in all applications. To demonstrate this, the applicant must describe the total length of the bore drain and apportion this length between applications. Each application must show the bore drain apportionment, see Figure 4 below.

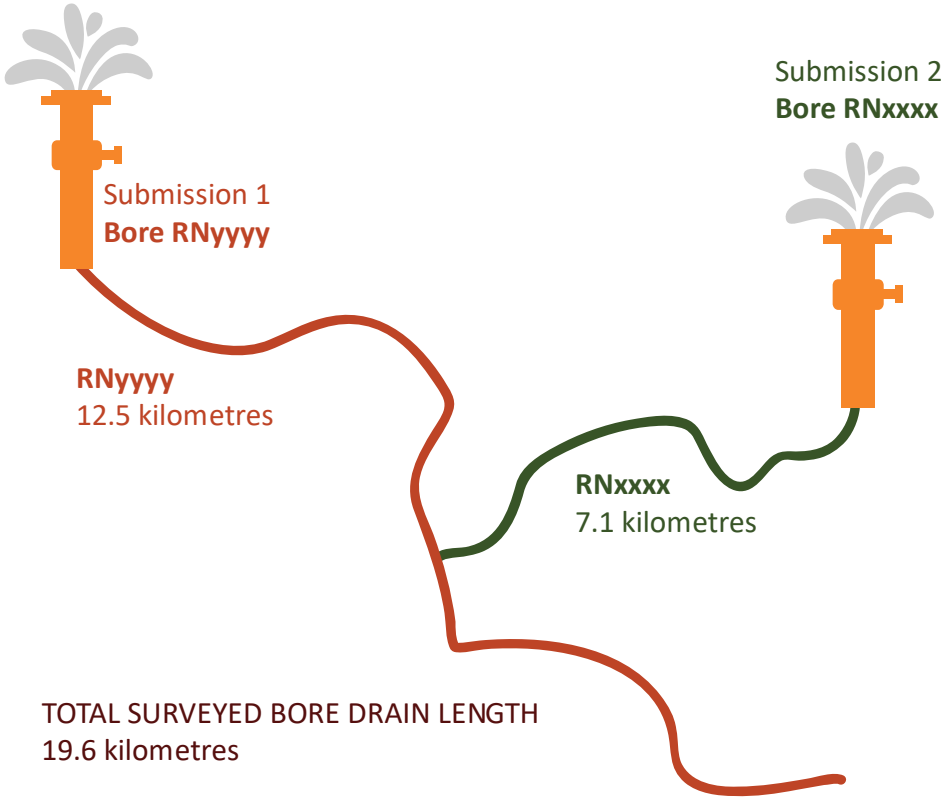

Figure 4 **Winter bore drain distributed between applications**

Limits on material costs

The total material costs for the controlled watering system must not be in excess of what is required to replace the existing bore drain. Grant funds for controlled watering systems are capped at $6,090/km of winter bore drain (including GST). The lesser of the materials expense and capped grant funds is to be used when calculating the allowable grant funds for the project. An example is provided in the budget in Section 8.

3.1.8 Application Form: Section 8 – Controlled Watering System Works Proposal Budget

Applicant to complete this section.

The controlled watering system works proposal must include an itemised budget for eligible project activities (e.g. materials - pipe, tanks, troughs). Each activity included in the budget must be supported by sufficient evidence as per Table 2 below and be within the limits of grant funding for that particular activity (if capped). Grant funding offered will be based on the approved proposed budget if the application is successful.

Example: Installation of controlled watering system to replace 25 kms of winter bore drain:

(Note cap on materials amount = 25 kms (winter bore drain length) x $6,090 = $152,250)

Activity/Expense	**Budget (including GST)**
Materials – Tanks	$44,000
Material – Troughs	$40,900
Materials – Pipe	$60,900
Materials – Fittings	$21,000
Materials – Cooling Grid	N/A
Materials – Mandatory Monitoring Device	$400
Subtotal	**$167,200**
Lesser of materials expense and capped amount	**$152,250**
Pre-works flow testing (if required)	$900
Self-installation – capped at $1,100 x 25 kms of winter bore drain when installed by the applicant not a contractor	$27,500
Installation by contractor	N/A
Engineer design & RPEQ Certification (Class 3 Driller Certification if required)	$6,000
Telemetry infrastructure	$15,000
Total	**$201,650**

Table 2 Evidence required with the application

Activity	Evidence	Special conditions
Pre-works flow test	Tax invoice/quote	
Controlled watering system works (pipe, tanks, troughs, fittings, etc.)	Itemised quote	Total controlled watering system material costs are capped at $6,090/km of winter bore drain including GST
Self-installation - Controlled watering system	Formula	Capped at $1,100/km of winter bore drain when installed by the applicant (no contractor)
Contractor installation - Controlled watering system	Quote	
Engineering design (controlled watering system), RPEQ certification	Tax invoice/quote	Tax invoice must be specific to the application
Telemetry infrastructure	Quote	
Mandatory Monitoring Device	Quote	Meets Australian Standards

3.1.9 Application Form: Section 9 – Proposed Grant Funding and Value for Money

Applicant to complete this section.

'Value for money' is calculated as the 'amount of grant funding requested in the application, divided by the water estimated to be saved per annum'. Applications are ranked in order of their comparative value for money. **Applications representing better value for money are prioritised over lesser value for money applications**.

Eligible applications with a 'value for money' better than a $4,205/ML benchmark will be recommended for grant funding under the GABRP. Applications exceeding the $4,205/ML benchmark may be recommended where significant cultural or environmental values are demonstrated (i.e. where the control of the bore and piping result in water savings and/or increases in pressure that have demonstrated environmental, cultural or social benefits for nearby GAB reliant ecosystems.

Prior to lodging an application, applicants may increase their private financial contribution to the total project cost, and accordingly reduce the requested grant funds. This will improve the 'value for money' offer which may make the application more competitive.

Example: Based on bore rehabilitation and controlled watering system installation from examples provided

Proposed grant funding (activity/expense)	**Budget (including GST)**
Total Bore Rehabilitation	$234,500
Total piping	$201,650
Applicant administration (5% of total project costs up to $5,500)	$5,500
Total	**$441,650**
% proposed grant funding requested (up to 90%)	**90%**
Proposed grant funding requested	**$397,485**

Value for Money Calculation

Proposed grant funding requested ÷ estimated flow to be saved $1,223 / ML

(i.e. $397,485 ÷ 325 ML/annum)

Value for Money ($/ML) **$1,111.8 / ML**

(remove GST to calculate Value for Money i.e. 1,223 ÷ 1.1)

3.1.10 Application Form: Section 10 – Applicant Certification

Applicant to complete this section.

Please complete the Applicant Certification Statement at Section 10.1.

Where it is a requirement on the water licence, applicants must provide the department with a Bore Management Statement relating to the water bore identified in the application. This is an eligibility condition under the GABRP and should be identified in the tick box at Section 10.2. Further information can be found at

https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/water/catchments-planning/water-plan-areas/gabora

At Section 10.3, applicants should indicate if they are applying under the government funded IGABDR project and/or the industry/philanthropic funded GABIPP.

From time to time the department may be contacted by external parties interested in investing in Bore Works projects. Accordingly, applicants may register their interest in third party investment (managed externally to the GABRP). If you wish to register your interest in third party investment you may do so by emailing the GABPMO directly (contact details in Section 11 of these guidelines) or, if applying under these guidelines, identifying your interest in the tick box at Section 10.3 of the Application Form. Note the department will contact you to seek your approval to release your contact details prior to providing to any third party.

Where the works proposed to be undertaken affects shared water infrastructure, applicants must obtain the consent of all landholders with an interest in the shared water infrastructure. Each individual landholder must sign the Certification Statement at 10.4.

If a landholder no longer requires water through either an existing bore drain system or controlled watering system from the bore, applicants must identify the landholder at 10.5 and attach the landholder's written consent that they no longer need access to the water.

3.2 Lodging the application

The call for applications will be run over two rounds.

- **Round 1:** Open 9 June 2021 / Close 16 July 2021 **5.00 pm AEST**
- **Round 2:** Open 16 August 2021 / Close 19 November 2021 **5.00 pm AEST**

Late applications will not be accepted.

Completed application forms and attachments must be lodged by mail, email, fax or in person (contact details in Section 11). The department will acknowledge receipt of applications within five business days, and promptly assess completed and eligible applications once all applications have been received.

4.0 Application assessment

Applications for both the IGABDR project and GABIPP will be assessed for eligibility and compliance. The primary criterion for prioritisation is 'value for money'. A secondary criterion will also be used to assess the prioritisation of the application where environmental, cultural or social benefits for nearby GAB reliant ecosystems can be demonstrated. Applications for consideration under the State and Commonwealth IGABDR Project Agreement will be recommended to the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth will assess these projects in accordance with the Project Agreement for the IGABDR. This document can be found on the internet at:

http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/npa/environment.aspx

Applications for consideration under the GABIPP Contribution Agreement will be recommended to the department's delegate for approval. Applications under this grant funding do not require Commonwealth approval.

If the application is approved, an offer of grant funding will be made and a Funding for Works Deed will be provided to the applicant. An example of the Funding for Works Deed can be found at www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/water/catchments-planning/great-artesian-basin/rehabilitation-program.

The project management team will arrange to meet with each applicant to discuss their obligations and the project activities and timeframes. If the applicant wishes to accept the offer of grant funding, they must sign and return the Funding for Works Deed to the department. The department recommends all applicants seek legal and financial advice prior to entering into an agreement.

5.0 Entering into a grant deed

Project works must not commence until:

- a Funding for Works Deed has been executed;
- all pre-construction conditions outlined in the deed have been completed; and
- the applicant has received a written notice from the department advising that works may commence.

Pre-construction conditions

Within 28 days of execution of the Funding for Works Deed, the applicant must provide the following:

1. for piping only projects if required, evidence to the department's satisfaction from an independent suitably qualified professional that the existing bore is in a suitable condition to pipe. Evidence must be, at a minimum, in the form of a geophysical logging report containing a statement of the existing bore's fitness and suitability for that purpose and its suitability and capability of being connected to a controlled watering system;

2. if required, a certified copy of a Water Sharing Agreement:

   - *Water Sharing Agreement*: Where grant funding is intended to be applied towards works that affect infrastructure owned or used by multiple parties (including the applicant) and/or located on land other than the applicant's land, the applicant must ensure all parties are satisfied with arrangements for continued use of that infrastructure after the works are completed. This is to be in the form of a Water Sharing Agreement.

     The department will request written confirmation of the Water Sharing Agreement; however the department is not a party to the agreement, nor is it responsible for the administration or enforcement. The department is not required to give its consent or approval to such private arrangements.

     It is recommended that parties obtain their own legal advice with respect to the issue of access to and use of shared infrastructure. Where the parties do not have a current Water Sharing Agreement they should consider instructing a lawyer to draft a suitable water agreement to meet their respective needs;

3. any required permits, approvals and consents (i.e. development approval for bore works, crossing public roads, cultural heritage search, vegetation management):

   - *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*: When planning and installing works, applicants must fulfil their obligations regarding cultural heritage under Queensland legislation. More information can be found at:
     - www.datsip.qld.gov.au/people-communities/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-cultural-heritage;
   - *Vegetation Management Act 1999*: When planning and installing works, applicants must fulfil their obligations regarding vegetation management under Queensland legislation. More information can be found at:

- www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/vegetation/management/;

4. if required, a signed contract with the Class 3 Drilling contractor;

5. certificates of currency for WorkCover and public liability (at least $10M).

6.0 Implementing the grant deed

Applicants are responsible for managing their projects and on-ground works including, where required, gaining the correct permits and approvals, engaging a Class 3 driller, purchasing materials, scheduling material deliveries, coordinating contractors, and installing controlled watering systems. The department is not involved in nor responsible for the project management of the applicant's project.

Any changes to the proposed project works by the applicant following approval, including design amendments or changes to the Class 3 driller or RPEQ, requires written approval from the department, and in some cases a variation to the Funding for Works Deed.

If approval is not obtained, the department may not disburse grant funding for the project.

7.0 Commissioning of works under the grant deed

Commissioning of bore rehabilitation works and / or controlled watering system works must be recorded in *Form 002 – Disbursement of Grant Funding*. An example of this form may be requested from the GABPMO or downloaded at:

www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/water/catchments-planning/great-artesian-basin/rehabilitation-program.

7.1 Completion of bore rehabilitation works

Upon completion of bore rehabilitation works the Class 3 driller identified in the Funding for Works Deed must complete Section 4.0 of *Form 002 – Disbursement of Grant Funding,* and:

- provide copies of an itemised tax invoice, cementing reports and bore completion reports to the applicant;
- certify works have been inspected; and
- certify works meet the 'Minimum standards for the construction and reconditioning of water bores that intersect the sediments of artesian basins in Queensland'.

7.2 Completion of controlled watering system works

Upon completion of controlled watering system works, the RPEQ identified in the Funding for Works Deed must complete Section 5.0 of *Form 002 – Disbursement of Grant Funding,* and certify that:

- the controlled watering system works has been inspected and constructed as per the approved plan;
- the controlled watering system has been designed and constructed in accordance with the installation guidelines;
- materials used have a 50-year design life, excluding tanks and troughs; and
- tanks and troughs used have a 20-year design life.

The department reserves the right to inspect works at any reasonable time and may undertake compliance monitoring activities. These activities will include site inspections and observation of drilling works by departmental officers. The applicant, under their Funding for Works Deed, must provide property access to the department for these activities. The department will provide applicants with reasonable notice.

While the provision of a geophysical log at the completion of works is not generally a requirement for grant funding to be disbursed, it is highly recommended that one be undertaken. Applicants may include the cost of these works in the bore rehabilitation budget. The geophysical log and associated report should confirm to the applicant that the Class 3 driller contractual obligations have been met, including compliance with the 'Minimum standards for the construction and reconditioning of water bores that intersect the sediments of artesian basins in Queensland'.

8.0 Disbursement of grant funds

Disbursement of grant funding under the works agreement will only take place if:

- all work has been completed in accordance with the Funding for Works Deed, and to the satisfaction of the department;
- all work has been completed by the completion date; and
- *Form 002 – Disbursement of Grant Funding* and any associated documents have been correctly submitted (see Section 7 of these guidelines).

For all controlled watering systems the applicant must lodge Form W2F160 'Application to amalgamate, amend or subdivide a water licence' so the existing water licence is amended to remove the bore drain condition.

Disbursement of project grant funds will be made to the applicant on meeting the following milestones. The department will not distribute grant funding between multiple landholders, even where the works affect shared infrastructure. The interested parties must make their own arrangements with respect to the distribution of grant funds by the applicant towards works affecting any shared infrastructure.

8.1 Preliminary milestone payment (geophysical logging of bore to be piped).

This preliminary milestone may apply to some 'piping only' projects for geophysical logging to verifying the bore fitness for connection to a piping scheme. Where grant funding has been offered, the applicant may be asked to demonstrate that the bore will not fail unexpectedly as a result of the installation of a controlled watering system. If geophysical logging is required, the department may reimburse reasonable costs up

to $7,000 for the logging of a bore. This payment is separate to the approved grant funding for the project and may be claimed as follows. The applicant must:

- have been provided an offer of grant funding in writing from the department;
- have a requirement in their Funding for Works Deed to demonstrate evidence has been obtained as to fitness and suitability of the bore for the works;
- complete *Form 002 – Disbursement of Grant Funding* for Milestone 1, and:
  - provide a copy of a tax invoice and evidence of payment for geophysical logging;
  - provide a copy of the geophysical logging report and associated expert advice; and
  - advise whether they will be proceeding with the project based on the expert advice.

8.2 Milestone payment on 'practical completion' of project

Up to 75% of approved grant funding may be disbursed upon demonstration of 'practical completion' of works.

'Practical completion' is achieved when all works have been certified by the Class 3 driller and/or the RPEQ as completed. Payment of all invoices may not have occurred at this point, but evidence (see Table 3 below) of all expenses being claimed for the works must be provided.

Prior to the government contributing to <u>any</u> expenses associated with a project, the applicant must provide the following to the department:

- completed *Form 002 – Disbursement of Grant Funding* for Milestone 6;
- evidence requirements as identified in Table 3 below.

Table 3 Evidence requirements

Activity	Works type		Evidence required
	Rehabilitation works	Controlled watering system works	
Geophysical logging and/or hydrological assessment	☑	☑	Copy of tax invoice issued by the contractor to the applicant for the geophysical logging
Pre-works bore flow testing (if required)	☑	☑	Copy of tax invoice by the bore flow testing contractor to the applicant, for the pre-works flow testing of the bore
Drilling works	☑		Certification by the Class 3 driller that the works are completed and they meet the 'Minimum Standards' Copy of tax invoice issued by the Class 3 drilling contractor to the applicant for the rehabilitation work completed on the bore. The tax invoice must: • itemise all works performed to easily distinguish if works were undertaken to extend (deepen) the bore asset. Works associated with extending (deepening) the bore asset are not included in the works agreement and the department will not contribute to these works. These works must be itemised separately

			• itemise materials used (e.g. casing, muds, headworks) and clearly identify if materials extend the bore asset or not (e.g. unit metres of casing). The department will not contribute to materials which extend (deepen) the bore asset • not include stand-down rates by the driller. The department will not contribute to any stand-down rates and will only contribute to actual works undertaken Copy of all cementing report/s Copy of a bore completion report Photographs of the decommissioned and new bore
Drilling works (piping only funded)		☑	Where the bore did not meet the 'Minimum Standards', was not eligible for rehabilitation and the applicant undertook the works at their own expense, certification by the Class 3 driller that the works are completed and they meet the 'Minimum Standards': Copy of all cementing report/s Copy of a bore completion report Photographs of the decommissioned and new bore
Engineering design & RPEQ and/or Class 3 driller certification		☑	Copy of tax invoice issued by the RPEQ and/or Class 3 driller to the applicant for controlled watering system design, and RPEQ certification
Materials		☑	Controlled watering system material costs are capped at $6,090/km of winter bore drain including GST Copy of tax invoices for materials must itemise all materials used including size/length (e.g. pipes, tanks, troughs, fittings, cooling grid)
Installation of controlled water system		☑	Certification by RPEQ that the controlled watering system has been constructed in accordance with the original application to the department Photographs of the decommissioned bore drain. The bore drain must be shut down permanently at completion of works For self-installation – installation expenses will be capped at $1,100/km including GST of winter bore drain replaced; or For contractor installation – copy tax invoice issued by the contractor to the applicant
Water meter and/or pressure monitoring device	☑	☑	Copy of tax invoice issued by the supplier to applicant, including a photograph of either device fitted to the bore head
Administration costs by the applicant	☑	☑	The maximum project administration expense claimable is the lesser of 5% of the total project cost up to $5,500 including GST
Telemetry infrastructure	☑	☑	Copy of tax invoice issued by the supplier to applicant

8.3 Milestone Payment on Evidence of Expenditure of Works

The final payment of 25% of approved grant funds will be paid to the applicant upon provision of:

- completed *Form 002 – Disbursement of Grant Funding* for Milestone 7;
- evidence of payment of contractor and supplier invoices associated with the project; and
- evidence of lodgement of form W2F160 Application to amalgamate, amend or subdivide a water licence (if applicable):
    - https://www.resources.qld.gov.au/business/water/authorisations/application-forms/application-to-amalgamate-amend-subdivide

Final payment may be adjusted pro-rata according to the actual amount of works completed or allowable expenses incurred. The total amount of grant funds paid for any project will not exceed the approved grant funding identified in the Funding for Works Deed.

9.0 Financial assistance

The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) may be able to provide sustainability loans for projects under GABRP. Further information can be found at:

https://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/sustainability-loan

10.0 Variation to guidelines

The department may at any time issue an addendum to vary these guidelines in writing.

11.0 Contact details

All applicant enquiries about the GABRP, including certification prior to the preparation of an application can be made by:

Telephone: (07) 4529 1355, (07) 4529 1277 or
Fax: (07) 4529 1555
Email: GABPMO@rdmw.qld.gov.au

GABRP Applications
GAB Project Management Office
Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water
PO Box 318
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

Applications for grant funding may be lodged by mail, email, fax or in person and will be received up until:

- **Round 1:** 16 July 2021 **5.00 pm AEST**
- **Round 2:** 19 November 2021 **5.00 pm AEST**

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