

14 May 2023

Great Artesian Basin Secretariat
Great Artesian Basin Programs Review
gabsecretariat@dcceew.gov.au

Dear Secretariat

On behalf of Property Rights Australia (PRA) please find enclosed our concerns regarding the Great Artesian Basin Programs Review (GABPR).

1) About PRA

PRA was formed in 2003 to protect the property rights of those unfairly targeted by the Vegetation Management Act 1999. We are a non-profit organisation of primary producers and small business people mostly from rural and regional Queensland who are concerned about the continuing encroachment on the rights of private property owners in the development, introduction and administration of policies and legislation relating to the management of land, water, and other resources. Set up in South West Queensland, PRA's membership now extends across most states and multiple major rural industries, PRA is not affiliated to any political party.

2) PRA Feedback

PRA supports the observations made by Senator Perin Davey, "The Federal Government's Safety Net Mechanism will require 215 companies to substantially reduce their CO2 emissions. This will open the gates to potentially allow tens of billions of tonnes of CO2 fluid to be pumped into the Great Artesian Basin. It is clear that the receiving ground water will be compromised and that they cannot meet current environmental regulations. Restrictions on their injection sites and zones around them will effectively render the water source useless to anyone else"¹.

PRA's feedback regarding the GABPR:

- Section 41 of the Environmental Regulation 2019 should not be changed as requested by Glencore to more easily facilitate their carbon capture and storage plan.
- The carbon capture and storage plan will damage the site and the footprint of the plume making it unsuitable for new users.
- There are other applications for permits meaning there could be several in the Basin if the concept is accepted.
- The concept is experimental.

¹ Question to the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water, Senate Question No. 1658 and 1659. Senator Perin Davey asked the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Water, 22 March 2023.

- The overwhelming importance of the water resource of the Basin has been recognised by all governments who have sought to preserve it at great expense under programs like the GABSI plan.
- The long-term usefulness of this resource must be preserved for use by productive industries and not used for the short-term gain of easy carbon credits
- Future generations of producers of essential goods such as food will require a supply of uncontaminated water.
- The fact that it is not considered potable by Glencore is irrelevant, it is eminently suited to stock water and irrigation.
- It is also suitable for community water whether with or without treatment.
- Risk of even a limited amount of damage to such a unique resource is not acceptable.

3) Submission Contact

For further information regarding this submission please contact Joanne Rea, PRA Treasurer on M: 0407 143 664 or E: reajoanne200@gmail.com.

Joanne Rea

Joanne Rea
Treasurer
Property Rights Australia