



**The Hon. Barnaby  
Joyce MP**  
Minister for Agriculture and  
Water Resources



**The Hon. Niall Blair  
MLC**  
Minister for Lands and Water

## MEDIA RELEASE

### ***\$1.7 million for NSW water infrastructure projects in Great Artesian Basin***

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Barnaby Joyce, and NSW Minister for Lands and Water, Niall Blair, have announced seven new projects under Phase Four of the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (GABSI).

Minister Joyce said the Australian Government was delivering funding of \$1.7 million to the NSW Government for the projects, which would deliver important water infrastructure upgrades, replacing inefficient open bore drains with modern piped reticulation systems.

“These projects will see about 41 kilometres of open bore drains decommissioned, and 55.6 kilometres of new pipe drains installed, as well as replacing seven old bores,” Minister Joyce said.

“Even in well-maintained open drains, up to 95 per cent of water can be wasted through evaporation and seepage.

“These infrastructure upgrades are expected to save about 1,646 megalitres of water each year, supporting greater water security and drought resilience for farmers who rely on artesian water.

“The Great Artesian Basin is a precious water resource that underpins agricultural productivity, strong communities and a healthy environment. It must be managed with long term vision to ensure it can support positive economic, social and environmental outcomes to benefit future generations.

“The Australian Government has invested over \$112 million over 15 years to accelerate work to modernise water infrastructure across the Basin—and last year we extended the GABSI programme for an additional three years to 2017.”

NSW Minister for Lands and Water, Niall Blair said he was pleased to have secured funding under Phase Four of the GABSI.

“The Great Artesian Basin lies below 25 per cent of NSW, supporting a population of over 200,000 people, with an estimated 1,400 bores,” said Minister Blair.

“The NSW Government has committed \$6 million for rehabilitation of artesian bores and this funding from the Australian Government will help replace inefficient open bore drains with efficient piped systems.”

For more information on the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative, visit [environment.gov.au/water/environment/great-artesian-basin-sustainability-initiative](https://environment.gov.au/water/environment/great-artesian-basin-sustainability-initiative).