

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

### **\$870,000 BOOST FOR CAP AND PIPE THE BORES PROGRAM**

21 July 2009

The auction of water in the Great Artesian Basin has raised \$870,000 to cap and pipe more properties in the region, Minister for Water, Phil Costa announced today.

Minister Costa said Local Government and the tourism and agricultural industries purchased the water for between \$30,000 and \$50,000 per 50 megalitre lot.

“Every dollar made from the auction will go straight back into capping and piping more properties, to continue to restore the sustainability of our future water supply,” Mr Costa said.

“When it comes to water management, we need a balanced approach for farmers, the community, and the environment.

“We’ve capped and piped free flowing bores on more than 230 private properties and saved more than 47,000 megalitres of water per year.

“Previously 90 percent of this water would have been wasted, lost to seepage and evaporation.

“A small amount of water was auctioned - just 2.5% of the total water saved - but it will allow us to continue to cap and pipe more properties.

“We expect to save a further 20,000 million litres of water through the program in the next five years

“Today’s auction is a good outcome rural communities in the Great Artesian Basin, providing local farming and tourism industries with the water they need to operate and a valuable economic boost for the region.

“We’ve made a condition that the water auctioned must remain in the Central, Warrego and Surat groundwater sources, to ensure the local community benefits.

“We’ll be conducting an extensive review of the auction, and I encourage the community to take part in the consultation process.

“We’ve also made a commitment that 70 percent of the total water saved will be retained for the environment.”

Mr Costa said the NSW and Australian Governments have spent \$32 million on the Cap and Pipe the Bores Program since 2004.

“The Cap and Pipe the Bores program is voluntary, and in return farmers receives a new or reconditioned bore with a design life of 50 years, improved water supply, and more secure basic landholder rights to extract water,” Mr Costa said.

“The NSW and Australian Governments had together set aside \$5.5 million in grants for this financial year to assist landholders cap and pipe their bores.”



# Minister Phillip Costa MP

Minister for Water  
Minister for Rural Affairs  
Minister for Regional Development

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The auction does not impact water availability in the Murray-Darling Basin as the Great Artesian Basin aquifers are contained systems - meaning there is very little or no connectivity with surface water sources.

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