



# Private Property Rights & Resources

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## Rural Water Rebate Schemes

The Farm Water Supply Planning Scheme (FWSPS) and the Farm Water Rebate scheme (FWRS) form part of the water supply initiatives administered under the DoW Rural Water Planning program.

Under these two programs dryland farmers can recover costs on initial water supply planning work and then apply for further rebates on infrastructure purchased to implement the on-farm improvements identified by the water supply plan.

Farmers in dryland agricultural districts (less than 600mm annual rainfall) are required to prepare a farm water supply plan with the assistance of farm water supply auditors approved by the DOW.

FWSPS provides 50% of costs up to \$500 to commercial farms to undertake an audit of on-farm water assets and to prepare an action plan and 50% of costs up to \$15,000 of targeted on-farm water supply improvements

For further information or a list of approved Auditors contact DOW or PGA.

## Caring for our Country Western Australia Consultations

The extension of CfoC for a further 5 years has recently been announced as part of the 2012 – 2013 Australian Government budget. An "Outline for the Future" document was released which included a new period of consultation on the design of Caring for our Country for the years 2013 – 2018. It has been decided that the program will be delivered in two streams – sustainable environment and sustainable agriculture.

The sustainable environment stream includes:

- Maintenance of ecosystem services, including ecological and cultural values, now and into the future;
- Protection of our conservation estate;
- Enhanced capacity of indigenous communities to conserve and protect natural resources.

The sustainable agriculture stream includes:

- Sustainable production of food;
- Innovation in Australian agriculture and fisheries practices;
- Reduced impact of weeds and pests on agriculture;
- Improved management of agriculture and fisheries and the natural resource base;
- Skilled and capable Landcare community.

Other discussion points included:

- the importance of the Southwest Biodiversity Hotspot and the need to address salinity;
- the need for clearer articulation of which activities are eligible for funding within Caring for our Country's objectives;
- using regional plans to target actions for national priority assets such as Ramsar wetlands;
- better targeting sustainable agriculture extension services.

For further information contact Zak @ PGA.

## Ministerial Advisory Panel

The Dept of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) announced the commencement of the Reform Program to implement Best

Practice Environmental Regulation for the West Australian resource sector. Gary Peacock was nominated to represent PGA and attended the first meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

The purpose of the meeting was to establish working groups to provide detailed input on specific issues. Four working groups have now been established and we have one representative on each of the working groups to ensure landholders interests are considered in all future policy decisions.

## Water Policy Industry Reference Group

The Second meeting of the group was held in July 2012.

The key issues discussed were Over allocation, Variability (take), Compliance and enforcement, Metering, Fees and charges, Water trading, Separation of land and water and Perpetual water entitlements. The department is seeking stakeholder's views to obtain a consensus opinion on the options in respect to a proposed Water Resource Management Bill. The DoW will release a summary of the various discussion topics and preferred options for further consultation with relevant stakeholders.

For further information or to register your comments. Contact Zak @ PGA on 9475 7202 or email [milanz@pgaofwa.org.au](mailto:milanz@pgaofwa.org.au)

1st Floor, Pastoral House, 277 Great Eastern Highway, BELMONT WA 6104

Telephone: (08) 9479 4599 Facsimile: (08) 9277 7311 Web Site: [www.pgaofwa.org.au](http://www.pgaofwa.org.au)

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS & RESOURCES

Chairman: Gary Peacock 0428 529 030

Policy Director: Milan Zaklan (Zak) 08 9479 4599

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