

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 114  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 4.1  
**Programme:** Water (WTR)  
**Topic:** Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative  
**Hansard Page:**  
**Question Date:**  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

Has the Department been exploring any mechanism for increasing private investment in the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative, as was intimated by the Deputy Prime Minister last year? If so, has there been any success or interest from potential private investors? Who has shown interest and to what extent?

**Answer:**

The Department is preparing advice for the government on possible options for increasing private investment in the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative in order to transition the Initiative from public to private funding when current funding ceases in 2017. It is intended to consult with State jurisdictions and possible private funders prior to settling the new arrangements.

Relevant governments are currently reviewing the GAB Strategic Management Plan to inform and influence the future directions for sustainable management of the GAB.