

Carnarvon Artesian Basin Rehabilitation project

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The Carnarvon artesian basin rehabilitation project and the GMS program are value adding to the rehabilitation of artesian bores in a number of ways.

Just one of the means of value adding to artesian bores is to establish Total Grazing Management Yards where the bore services a watering point. Many of the pastoralists involved in this project have done exactly that to enable greater stock control. The artesian bores have also proven to be a useful source of water for aquaculture for some pastoralists, as a means of diversification.

In addition, pastoral businesses are diversifying into 'Outback' tourism, horticulture and goat domestication – complementing the artesian bore work.

Overall the Carnarvon Artesian Basin Rehabilitation Project has:

- Geophysically logged 43 artesian bores and produced 19 artesian water management plans.
- Resulted in the drilling and relining of 15 artesian bores.
- Enabled decommissioning or control of 19 previous flowing bores, with a further 11 artesian bores scheduled to be decommissioned on a total of 13 pastoral properties;
- it is estimated that in excess of 5.5 GL of water has been saved per annum - this is about 15,000 kL/day that is no longer going to waste, lost through evaporation and seepage.
- The removal of about 88 kilometres of bore drains has had a positive impact on feral animal and weed control.

For more information please call Wayne Astill at the Water and Rivers Commission office in Carnarvon on (08) 9941 4921.

Picture: Flowing Artesian Bore: Can provide actual picture if desired