



Indigenous Groundwater Connections, Knowledge and Values Panel

Mr Alan Holt

Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee

Alan's connection to the Great Artesian Basin resources stems from a few historical facts. He is a descendant of Bidjara and Wakaman First Nation People from the GAB spring feed areas of Carnarvon Gorge and Bullaringa National Park. His employment in NSW with Catchment Management Authorities enabled him to work with Western NSW towns communities and land managers that relied on GAB groundwater for cultural, domestic and economic purposes.

He was first approached by two Indigenous Land Management Facilitators in 2008 who asked if he would be interested in submitting my application to become the Indigenous Sector Representative on the Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee (GABCC). Prior to his appointment in 2009 to GABCC there are no Indigenous Sector Representative on the GABCC, or the Great Artesian Basin Consultative Council which the GABCC replaced. The primary role of these two committees is to provide advice from community organisations and agencies to Ministers on efficient, effective and sustainable whole-of-resource management and to coordinate activity between stakeholders.

Alan's role on the GABCC is to ensure First Nations Peoples stakeholders input on the management of GAB cultural values and resources usages is included in policy development for the GAB. From 2015 to 2018, he worked extensively on the GAB Strategic Management Plan which provides a framework to guide the actions of governments, traditional owners, water users and other interests in their endeavour to achieve economic, environmental, cultural and social outcomes for the Great Artesian Basin and its users. It is in his role on the GABCC that Alan has been fortunate to become aware and try to support GAB stakeholders to identify and respond to the risks, issues, challenges and opportunities associated with use of Basin water. Alan has been especially fortunate to hear the historical and cultural values and usage of First Nation Peoples from the diverse lands of the GAB area.