Burdekin Water Futures

Newsletter

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Chair's message

The Burdekin region is one of Australia's major irrigation areas with more than 80,000ha of irrigated land. The water supplies for our farming crops come from rainfall, the Burdekin Dam and our large coastal groundwater systems.

A variety of processes occur which affect the levels of these groundwater (or aquifer) systems. These include recharging of the system through rainfall, flood, the river and by artificial means, as well as withdrawal for irrigation purposes and leakage to the ocean.

The complexity and interconnectedness of the lower Burdekin water systems highlight the need for both an individual and collective responsibility to ensure the systems are well managed for the benefit of future generations.

BWF looks forward to working with you towards the sustainable future of this important resource.

Cr Lyn McLaughlin, BWF Chair

Improving the understanding of the lower Burdekin Groundwater Systems

With the aim of assisting stakeholders in the Lower Burdekin to make informed decisions regarding groundwater management, the National Water Commission has funded a project to enable the development of a hydrological modelling toolkit for the region.

The integrated suite of modelling tools will investigate the key issues of: rising groundwater tables; declining groundwater quality, poor quality groundwater discharge; seawater intrusion; climate change; and future land and water use impacts. By incorporating updated field data, the project will construct, calibrate, and test models on the unsaturated zone, groundwater flow and solute transport.

The Department of the Environment and Resource Management (DERM) is the lead organisation and will collaborate with other stakeholder organisations, including Burdekin Water Futures (BWF), in the drive to develop a hydrological modelling toolkit to meet the current and future needs of the Burdekin catchment. The success of the project depends on co-operation and input from a large number of stakeholders who can provide local and historical information.

With the project in its initial stages of development, DERM and BWF held a community information session in the Burdekin on April 12. DERM representatives presented information on the groundwater model concept, solute transport and the saturated and unsaturated zone. The many stakeholders who attended were able to hear about the development of the model and provide input into the process.

Further information can be obtained from:
Gerard McMahon (DERM)
Email: Gerard.McMahon@derm.qld.gov.au
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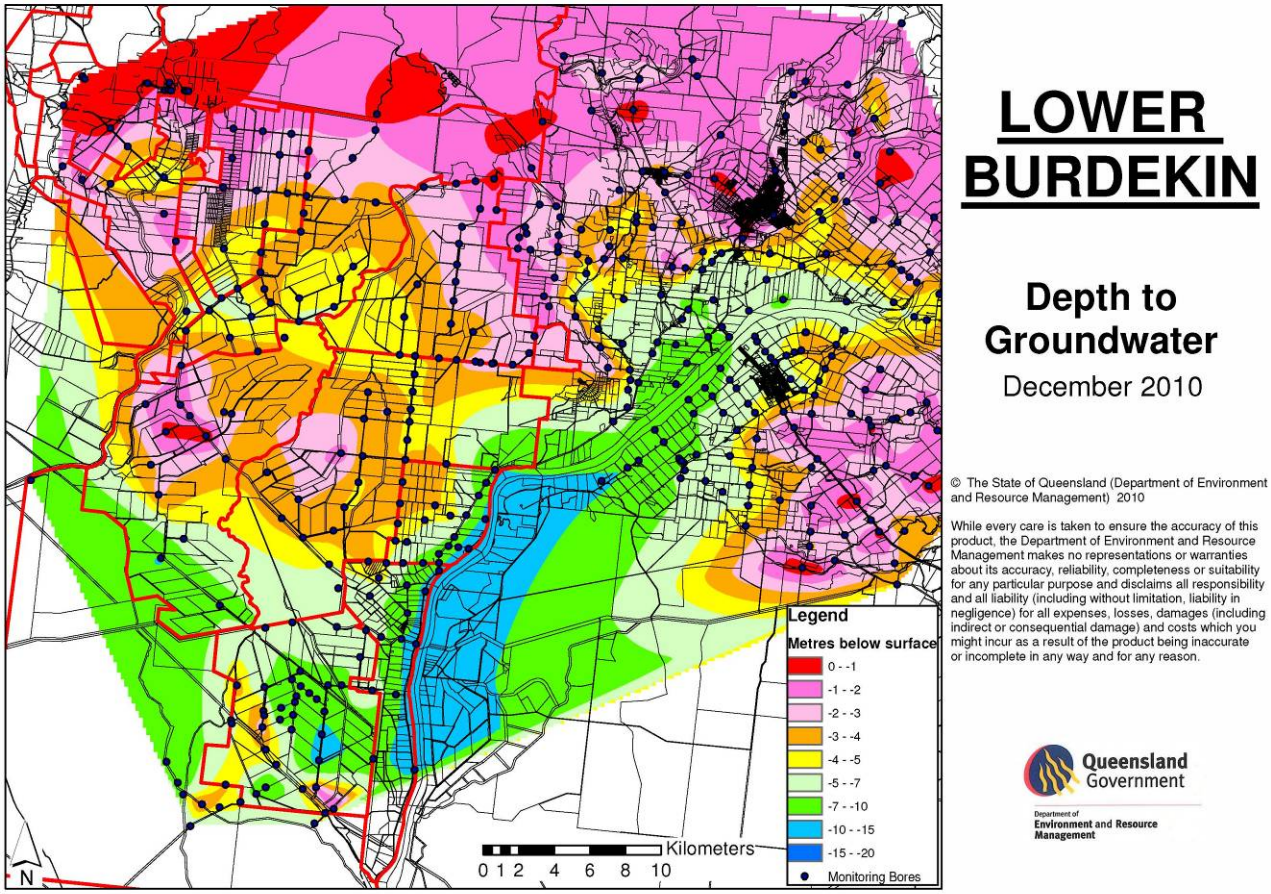
Under the Surface

The Department of the Environment and Resource Management has provided the graphic below, which shows the measurement of depth to the groundwater across the lower Burdekin as at December 2010.
For more information, contact Gary.Jensen@derm.qld.gov.au



2011 IRRIGATION NEW HORIZONS FRESH IDEAS
IRRIGATION AUSTRALIA
REGIONAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

22-25 AUGUST – LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA

The latest irrigation and water management information will be presented at the 2011 Irrigation Australia Conference and Exhibition from August 22 to 25 in Launceston, Tasmania.

The conference theme is New Horizons Fresh Ideas. It will give delegates the opportunity to network with peers from around the country and listen to industry experts as they present on new technologies and research that is relevant to the irrigation and water management industry from farm through to catchment scale.

For more information on registering as a delegate or speaker, field trips and workshops, go to the conference website at http://online.saneevent.com.au/ial2011/.