



WATER FOR FOOD

Middle Gascoyne – water investigations



The \$2.6million Middle Gascoyne water investigation project will define the scale and quality of the alluvial aquifers between Rocky Pool and the Kennedy Ranges 40 to 130 kilometres upstream of the Carnarvon horticultural district.

While water security for the Carnarvon horticultural precinct remains a priority, this project aims to define potential new upstream water sources that may ultimately allow diversification and expansion of the region's economy.

The aquifer systems and the quality and quantity of groundwater beyond Rocky Pool is not fully understood and this work will help determine where the Gascoyne region can ultimately head as an agriculture-based economy.

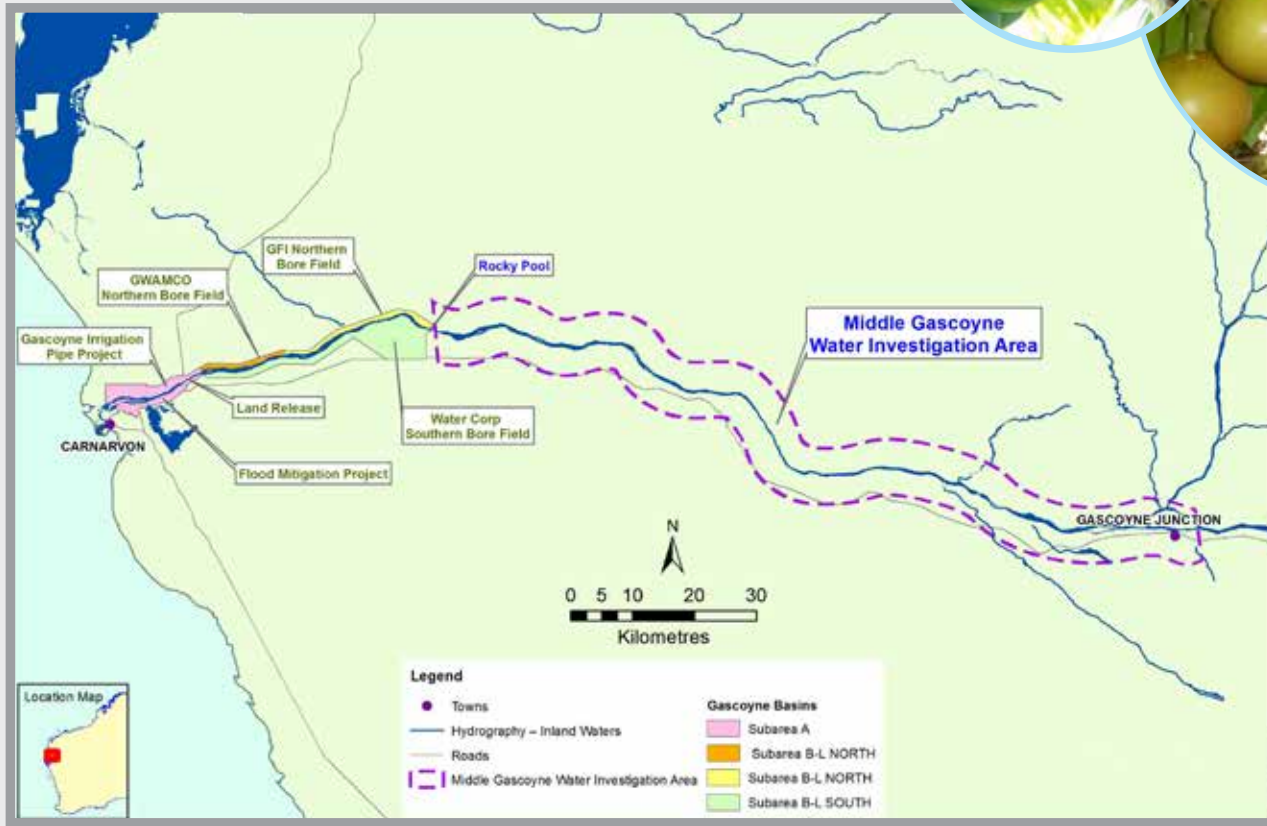
The investigation will include stakeholder involvement to develop an agreed strategic direction for the Carnarvon horticultural industry, consistent with the draft Gascoyne Regional Development Blueprint.

A critical component of the Middle Gascoyne project is to establish a pathway for pastoralists to convert parts of their holdings to more flexible land-use tenure, rather than be restricted to grazing only.

It is hoped the combination of tenure change and potential new groundwater may provide the pastoral sector with the opportunity to link with third-party investment capital, whether it be for the establishment of feed-on facilities or in high-value cropping.

- **Groundwater investigations**
- **Pastoral station diversification options**
- **Agricultural growth and diversity**
- **Regional economic development opportunities**
- **Investment attraction.**

Middle Gascoyne - water investigations area



Proposed Middle Gascoyne – water investigations timeline

January 2015

Detailed desktop review of geology, hydrogeology and ecosystems

May 2015

Aerial electromagnetic survey

July 2015

Installation of monitoring bores; stakeholder communication meeting

September 2015

Exploratory drilling; establishment of groundwater bores

May 2016

Groundwater dependent ecosystem analysis

August 2016

Agricultural soil capability survey

November 2016

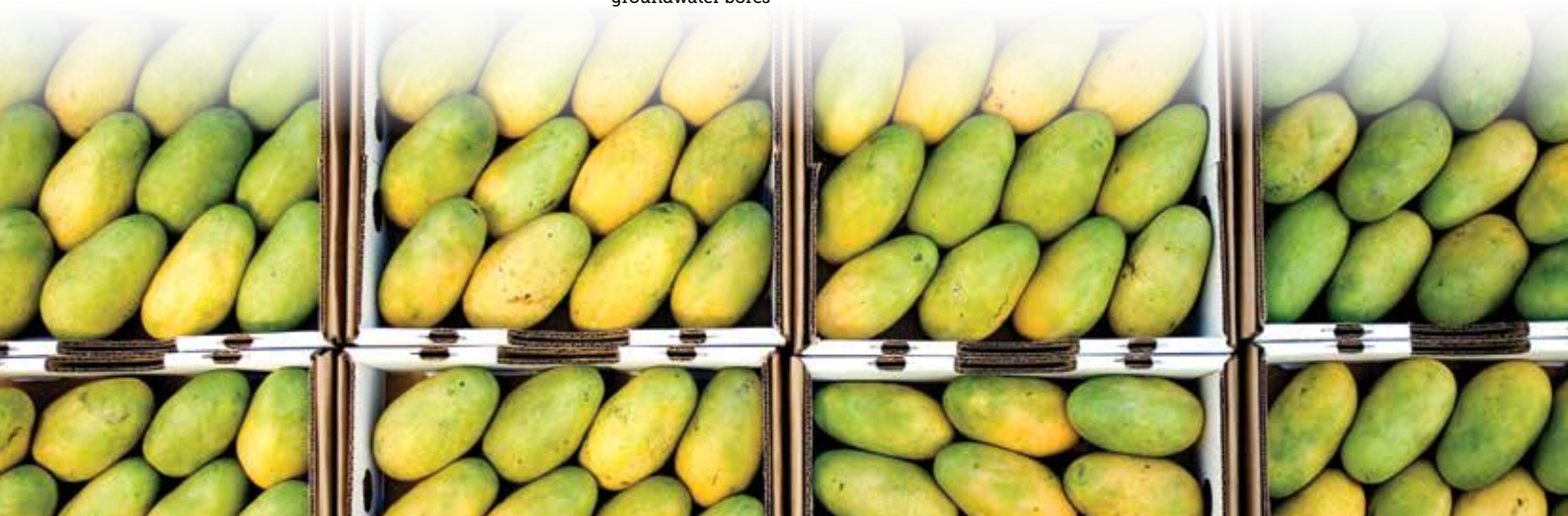
Agricultural assessment finalised

January 2017

Water supply options assessment

February 2017

Investor information package finalised



Department of Water
168 St Georges Terrace
Perth Western Australia 6000

Telephone: +61 6364 7600
Facsimile: +61 6364 7601
National Relay Service: 13 36 77

www.water.wa.gov.au
© Government of
Western Australia February 2015