



## WATER FOR FOOD

## Midlands groundwater and land assessment



The \$4.7 million Midlands groundwater and land assessment project aims to confirm groundwater availability in the Midlands area between Gingin and Dongara, one of the most economically promising irrigation zones in the State.

Large irrigators in the Gingin area want to increase production over the next five years at levels up to 300 per cent but groundwater in their local sub-areas has been largely allocated, meaning future horticultural expansion will lie outside their existing horticultural footprint.

Besides meeting the expansion needs of vegetable growers, the State Government has also received investor inquiries regarding large-scale fruit tree production, high-quality biofuel production, beef feed lots and feed-on dairy facilities.

This project aims to identify one or more 2000 - 3000 hectare precincts suitable for intensive irrigated horticulture within a broad 500 000 hectare envelope north of the Gingin irrigation district encompassing the Moora-Badgingarra-Dongara areas (Figure 1).

- Northern corridor growth plan
- Groundwater for new projects
- 500 000 hectare a study area
- Farm level investigations
- Local land assessment

The Department of Water estimates that 50 gigalitres a year of water could be available in the larger Midlands Water project study area to support industry expansion.

There are a number of significant shallow superficial groundwater sources unallocated which provide potential for major expansion. They include the Wedge Island superficial (approximately 25Gl/yr), Namming Lake superficial (approximately 9Gl/yr) and Karakan Lakes superficial (approximately 5Gl/yr).

The project will carry out targeted work for irrigation potential at local scale as well as defining hydrological data at the regional scale.

The project will also investigate in partnership with vegetablesWA, local government and the Department of Planning the potential land assemblage and development of a horticulture precinct(s) to attract major private investment.

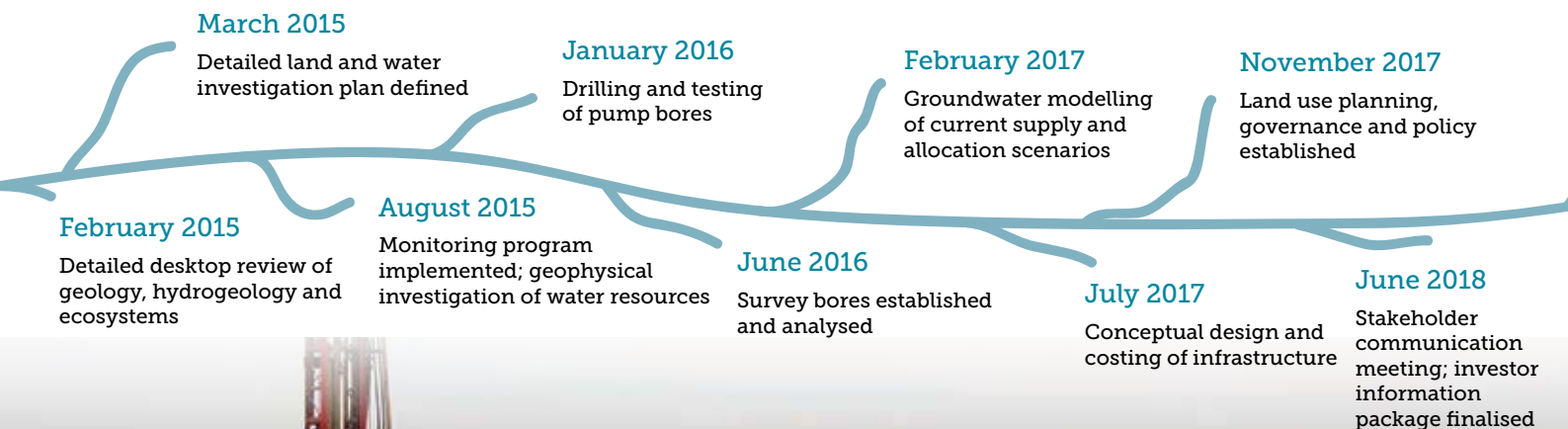
Stakeholders, including vegetablesWA, Fruit West, landholders, Midwest and Wheatbelt Development Commissions and local government authorities within the study area will be involved at all stages in the development and delivery of the project.

# Midlands Project



Figure 1

## Proposed Midlands timeline



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