

Revision of the Australian Groundwater Modelling Guidelines

Progress Update #2 – March 2026

On behalf of the project team at the SA Department for Environment and Water, welcome to our second progress update. Over the past few months we have been busy facilitating workshops, continuing small-group engagement sessions, and progressing the draft chapters and technical sections that will form the final publication.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks for the support, ideas and participation we have received so far including a particular thank you to everyone who attended the recent engagement sessions and workshops. Your willingness to share your experiences and perspectives is genuinely appreciated. Your input is already helping develop framework that is practical, useful and accessible for people who commission, use or work alongside groundwater modelling.



First Nations Engagement

The project team has begun working closely with DEW's First Nations Partnerships and Reconciliation Manager, Ashley Millar, whose guidance has been invaluable in helping us respectfully and meaningfully embed First Nations values and aspirations into the guideline review process.

Early First Nations engagement is especially important in groundwater modelling, where cultural knowledge, lived experience, and long-standing relationships with Country can reveal insights about water systems that Western science alone may overlook. This helps ensure our models are not only technically robust but also culturally informed and aligned with community priorities.

The team also recently met with Professor Bradley Moggridge, who generously made time in his busy schedule to share his expertise. His insights were invaluable in helping the project team in understanding how First Nations interests can be more effectively and authentically incorporated into the guidelines.

Extract of artwork created by Jordan Lovegrove depicts the vision of the DEW Stretch RAP. Jordan describes the artwork as a 'reflection of the Department for Environment and Water's journey for reconciliation'





Recently completed engagement sessions

- IAH Congress Presentation – 19 September 2025
- Introductory Webinar – 15 October 2025
- Online Workshop [SA Government] – 30 October 2025
- SRG Science Showcase (Federal) – 7 November 2025
- MODSIM Presentation – 7 November 2025
- 2025 State Govt Workshops – QLD, WA, NSW & ACT
- 2026 State Govt Workshops – NT
- SA Water Workshop - 18 December 2025
- Technical Expert Consultations – 16+ meetings (ongoing)



Recommendations Report

Whilst the focus is on developing the Guidelines, the project team will also prepare a Recommendations Report. This report will capture valuable insights gathered throughout the project including ideas, reflections, and information that won't appear in the final published guidelines.

The report will be based on our stakeholder engagement sessions and technical discussions. Our project team is gathering insights from across the sector, uncovering the kinds of practical wisdom that only emerge through real conversations. These engagement sessions have been a window into the lived experiences, bold ideas, honest reflections, challenges, and bright ideas shaping groundwater management across Australia. Some of this will be distilled in the Guidelines, while persistent knowledge gaps and challenges will be summarised in the Recommendations Report.

The Recommendations Report will be shared with the National Water Grid (NWG) and the National Groundwater Sub-Committee (NGSC) as well as being made publicly available. This will help inform future research, explore new ideas, identify potential projects, and build on the momentum created throughout the project cycle. It will also help shape the final NWG project report, ensuring the story of this project doesn't end here—it evolves.

Missed the Introductory Webinar?

You can view an edited version of the webinar here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nc9rOBISPJO>

Revision of the Australian Groundwater Modelling Guidelines

Introductory Webinar

Join the conversation

- Use the Q&A to ask questions anytime
- Use the CHAT to add comments or provide feedback
- With your support we will be recording this webinar to share with others



Engagement Facilitator - Fiona Chandler

Working closely with the DEW project team, Engagement Facilitator, Fiona Chandler shapes and guides the project engagement plan, identifies key stakeholders, and determines the most effective ways to communicate with each group.

Fiona leads a flexible suite of engagement activities ranging from workshops and focus groups to webinars, surveys, and moderated forums ensuring stakeholders have meaningful opportunities to contribute throughout the project.

Supported by Alluvium’s Olivia Adams, Fiona’s Engagement Facilitator role also includes providing clear, actionable feedback to the project team and supporting the development of communication strategies to promote the final guidelines.

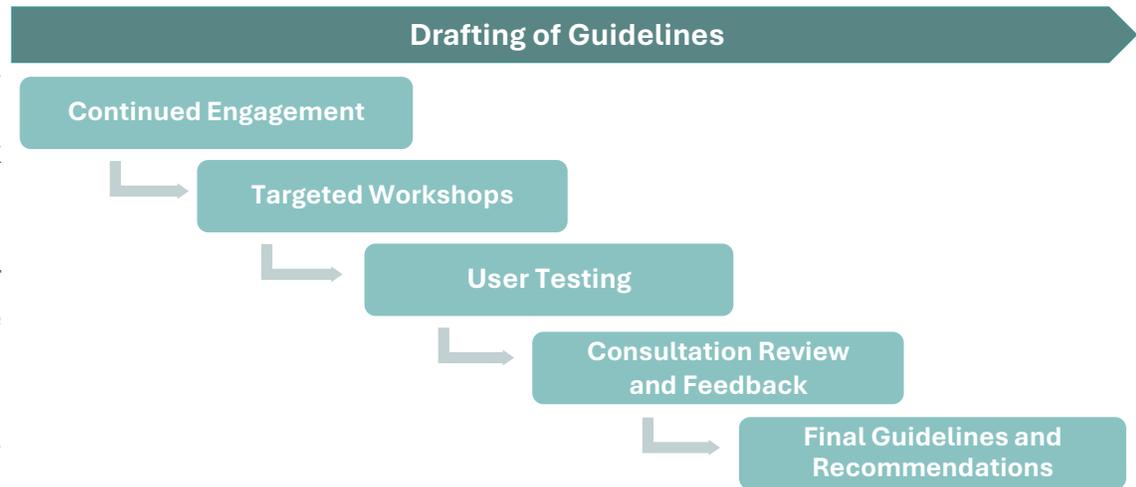


Next steps...

The project team has begun drafting the guidelines, drawing on the insights and perspectives gathered through engagement to date. This is very much a living process—ongoing conversations, new ideas, and continued feedback will all play an important role in shaping the final document.

We are genuinely grateful for the many offers to review and contribute. Your expertise is invaluable, and we expect to follow up with contributors in the coming months as the draft develops.

We are continuing to gather input, and welcome any additional perspectives or insights you or your colleagues may wish to share.



Join the conversation and get involved

Visit the project website to subscribe to future updates, register your interest in future engagement activities, and connect with the project team via our project webpage:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/australian-groundwater-modelling-guidelines-revision>

Please share this update and suggest people we can reach out to as part of our engagement. We would love to hear from you!

Funding Acknowledgement



This national project is funded by the Australian Government (\$1.5 million) and the South Australian Government (\$405,000). Australian Government funding is provided through the National Water Grid Fund.