

Watching underground water on the web

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The 3D Water Atlas compiles and analyses data from Surat Basin bores. Credit: University of Queensland

An open access [Water Atlas](#) goes online today, giving the general public a 3D view of groundwater data from eastern Australia's Surat Basin.

Associate Professor Sue Vink of The University of Queensland's Centre for Water in the Minerals Industry said the tool provided diverse information on the chemistry, water level and geology of water bores.

"The atlas is unique in that it presents quality assured and controlled groundwater data in 3D," Professor Vink said.

"Interpreted bore, geology and hydrogeology information gives a greater level of analysis and allows people to avoid compiling individual tables from the state government's groundwater database."

The researchers believe the general public and corporate, government, research and consultancy sectors will find the water atlas an effective way to visualise, communicate and analyse hydrogeological data.

Professor Vink said the atlas provided information over space and time, via cross-sections, pie charts and layer visualisations.

"Similar to the State Government's [Queensland Globe](#), our water atlas shows [coal seam gas](#) (CSG) tenements and lot and plan boundaries," she said.

Professor Vink said the 3D Water Atlas resulted from a joint industry and university workshop in 2011.

"We recognised at that workshop there was no easy-to-use, single source of [groundwater information](#) and hydrogeology," she said.

"Data from water levels and water chemistry in individual bores will be updated at least every six months. It will be presented in 2D and 3D sub-surface visualisations."

The atlas can be accessed via any common web browser at no cost.

More information: wateratlas.net/

Provided by University of Queensland

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