**Transcript**

***Associate Professor John Webb – Groundwater resources***

I work on groundwater which is water in the ground and what we’re doing in conjunction with the National Groundwater Centre is studying one of Australia’s major water resources which is used for agriculture and town water supplies throughout the country, like Perth gets a third of its water from groundwater. So, we’re studying that. Particularly factors that influence its quality and quantity.

We’re looking particularly at the impacts of climate change and landscape change on the groundwater resource. So we’ve got students looking at the impacts of tree plantations on groundwater resources and the impacts of flooding on groundwater resources because some of the predictions of climate change are that the rainfall will reduce but the amount of flooding will increase so that could counteract the decrease in rainfall and be more or less neutral for the groundwater resource. So, we’re looking in detail at that.

Groundwater is a very heavily managed resource now. It’s very important to know how its quantity and quality is going to change in the future. So our research is giving numbers to groundwater managers that will enable them to manage it on a more scientific basis and make sure that it’s a sustainable resource for the foreseeable future.