Emergency farmland water response plan
Shire of Gnowangerup

Looking after all our water needs

Emergency farmland water response series plan
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Acknowledgements

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The plan was also made possible through the support and assistance of landholders in the Shire of Gnowangerup and the Department of Water also wishes to acknowledge their contribution.

Photographs

All photographs are the property of the Department of Water unless otherwise stated.

Meaning of Gnowangerup

“The name Gnowangerup is derived from the Aboriginal word, Ngow’, meaning Malleefowl. These remarkable birds build an incubator mound of soil and leaf litter, in which the chicks hatch underground.” www.hiddentreasures.com.au/towns/gnowangerup.php

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Recurrent water supply problems have affected the agricultural region over many years. Emerging climate change is likely to increase occurrences of low rainfall, water shortages and demand more efficient use of water.

Rural water planning recognises the importance of preparing for these events and increasing the opportunities to deliver an assured water supply to farmland communities in dryland agriculture areas.

The Rural water plan provides a foundation for an organised and structured approach to maintaining sustainable farmland water supplies in dryland areas. Responsibility for implementing the plan rests with the Department of Water.

Emergency water response planning is one of the key roles of the Rural water plan. It aims to ensure that the commercial and lifestyle interests of farming families in dryland areas are safeguarded wherever possible against serious water deficiencies.

It recognises the importance of emergency off-farm water supplies to farming communities in the event of serious on-farm water shortages, particularly in respect to livestock needs.

While landholder self-sufficiency must remain the primary objective, preparing for those times when on-farm supplies fail due to sustained periods of low rainfall, is an essential function of rural water planners.

A responsibility rests on all stakeholders, including farmland communities, local governments and state government agencies to actively participate and cooperate in an integrated approach to water supply planning in rural areas.

This Emergency farmland water response plan has been compiled for the Gnowangerup Shire to provide clear instructions and procedures to guide stakeholders should the need arise to access emergency water supplies.

Community water sources that form part of a larger network of strategic off-farm emergency water supplies are identified in the plan, together with a description of the Water deficiency declaration process.
Regional and local level rural water planning envisages that emphasis be placed on the planning, development and installation of on-farm water supplies in an endeavour to satisfy the water needs of the farming business and to address any serious water supply deficiency.

The Rural water plan aims to address serious ongoing water shortages in dryland farming districts, and to achieve the dual outcomes of on-farm self sufficiency and reliable emergency off-farm water supplies for rural communities. The plan recognises the value of water – particularly in dry landscapes.

Several initiatives have been established under the Rural water plan to tackle the problem of on-farm water deficiency while assisting rural communities to facilitate on-the-ground water supply improvements. Importantly, these initiatives are designed to focus attention on the underlying causes of water deficiency, such as poor maintenance practices, lack of attention to demand management and water wastage as well as planning water supply improvements. The delivery of reliable water supplies to secure commercial broadacre farming operators against water shortages resulting from extended periods of low rainfall and poor runoff conditions is also a key objective.

Three of the Rural water plan initiatives are the Farm water supply planning scheme, Farm water rebates scheme and the Community water supply program. A brief outline of each scheme is provided below.

**Farm water supply planning scheme**

The principal aim of the Farm water supply planning scheme (FWSPS) is to encourage commercial farmers to participate in comprehensive water supply planning that provides the framework for an on-going process of addressing serious water deficiency, improving water resource and demand management and encouraging efficient use and conservation of water.

The maximum aggregated support available under the FWSPS to any one farming business to complete a farm water supply plan is $500 for an initial visit to a farm and $250 for a follow up visit 18 months after the plan is completed.

**Farm water rebates scheme**

The Farm water rebates scheme (FWRS) replaced the Farm water grants scheme which had been operating between 1995 and 2008. The FWRS aims to encourage commercial farmers in dryland agricultural areas to invest in on-farm water supply improvements to address identified areas of water deficiency, better manage existing water supplies, reduce water wastage and better prepare them for extended periods of low rainfall and drought.
The scheme assists with the cost of on-farm works programs. Rebates up to $15,000 can be awarded to broadacre farmers in those dryland areas of the agricultural region that receive less than 600mm of average annual rainfall. Rebates for on-farm work are calculated on the basis of the recipient contributing 50 per cent of the cost of approved expenditure (based on accepted industry standards).

Community water supply program

The key thrust of the Community water supply program (CWSP) is to assist broadacre farming communities that have limited options for improving their on-farm water supplies and whose livelihood is dependent on the availability of water from off-farm. The program recognises that there are times when extended periods of low rainfall may cause on-farm infrastructure to fail, forcing landholders to travel outside the farm gate to collect water supplies.

Under the program, grants can be made available to deliver a piped water service directly to a farm or to develop off-farm community water sources from which farmers can cart water in times of emergency. Grants are also available for projects designed to augment town and community water supplies.

Emergency water response planning

While water supply self-sufficiency remains the centrepiece of the Rural water plan, preparing for extended periods of low rainfall and limited runoff into farm dams and tanks storage also features prominently.

Sustained periods of low runoff conditions will inevitably lead to severe challenges for landholders – even for those considered to be the best water managers. Predicted climate change raises the urgency for effective planning in preparation for increasingly difficult farming conditions arising out of lower rainfall trends.

Consequently, alternative water supplies must be planned to assist landholders when on-farm water shortages are experienced. Emergency water response planning is an essential part of ensuring an orderly response to a critical deficiency in water supplies, particularly for livestock requirements. Moreover, effective planning can help to minimise the economic and social impact of water shortages on farming businesses and government exposure to the cost of hauling large quantities of water to affected districts.
If failure of on-farm supplies requires landholders to travel outside the farm gate to collect water for livestock purposes, the following steps should be followed.

**Step 1**
Identify and use neighbourhood and local water supplies while available and as water quality permits.

**Step 2**
Identify and access water from the closest strategic community water supplies.

**Step 3**
Access the nearest scheme water pipeline standpipe (after neighbourhood and strategic community water supplies have been exhausted).

**Step 4**
If the nearest available water supply is more than 40 km one-way from the farm gate, a *Water deficiency declaration* may apply. Where significant demand for off-farm water exists, assistance should be sought from the shire council in respect to lodging an application for a *Water deficiency declaration* with the Department of Water. The district office of the Department of Agriculture and Food should be notified of the application. A diagram showing the various phases leading up to the approval of a declaration can be seen at Figure 2.

**Step 5**
Submission of application by the shire to the Department of Water for a *Water deficiency declaration*.

**Step 6**
Activate a *Water deficiency declaration* – implementation and working arrangements.

A diagrammatic representation of the above steps in the emergency water response process is provided at Figure 1.

A more complete description of the process to be followed at each of the above steps is provided in the following pages.
Figure 1 - Emergency water response - Process

Step 1: Identify neighbourhood and local water supplies

Step 2: Identify and access strategic community water supplies

Step 3: Access Scheme Water Pipeline Standpipe/tank

Step 4: Travelling more than 40km one way - contact Shire office

Step 5: "Water Deficiency Declaration" application

Step 6: Water deficiency arrangements implementation

Farmer - On farm livestock water storage

Water haulage to water接收点

Collect Water

Farmer - On farm livestock water storage

Water haulage to water接收点
Step 1 Neighbourhood supplies

Some farmland communities or individual farmers have access to small localised water supplies (e.g. Agricultural Area Dams) that, although unlikely to be holding significant volumes of water, can play an important role in securing farming businesses against serious on-farm water shortages – even if only for short periods.

In terms of activating a Water deficiency declaration that involves the shire and the state government it will need to be demonstrated that any local or neighbourhood supplies have been exhausted, thus requiring travel to more remote sources of water.

The provision of neighbourhood supplies may also be realised through the cooperative efforts of adjoining landholders who may be prepared to share surplus water supplies or work collectively to explore alternative water sources.

Step 2 Access strategic community water supplies

In the event that on-farm, local and neighbourhood water supplies have been fully utilised, farmers are encouraged to draw water from larger strategic community dams, bores and tanks that have been provided for the supply of livestock water under emergency conditions.

This water is not treated and is supplied principally for livestock use. Livestock welfare must be given priority over water for general farm use.

Strategic community dams, bores and tanks are important sources of emergency water and should be used sparingly and not be used at times when on-farm supplies are available.

These community supplies are provided to secure broadacre farming operations in the event of serious on-farm water shortages. They are not intended to be used to satisfy the demand for large quantities of water required by intensive industries such as a feedlot.

However, water users other than broadacre farmers may use the water supplied from strategic community dams, bores and tanks in small quantities – providing that a conservative approach is applied to the use of the water and no landholder is disadvantaged through the excessive use of supplies by one or two landholders.

Should an unreasonable and excessive amount of water be drawn from a strategic community water supply, the offending party/ies (if identified) would be asked to limit their draw. In such cases an alternative arrangement would have to be made.

Strategic community dams, bores and tanks are important sources of emergency livestock water and should be managed carefully. It is essential that a maintenance program is implemented to ensure the dam, bore and tanks and associated infrastructure including catchments, pumps, piping and access and truck turnaround areas are kept in good working order at all times.

A water resource management plan to ensure the water supplies provided at strategic sites are used sustainably may also be desirable.
Step 3 Access scheme water pipeline standpipe/tank

In those parts of the dryland agricultural area with access to a piped water service, standpipes and storage tanks have been provided as a source of emergency water for those landholders whose properties are not connected to the pipeline.

The use of these standpipes is generally controlled by the local government authority which is charged directly by the Water Corporation for the water used from these sources by landholders. Landholders are expected to record their water consumption rates from standpipes. Water charges incurred will be recovered from landholders at the discretion of local government.

It should be emphasised that water made available from standpipes/tanks linked to a piped water service is intended for short term emergency use only, not as a regular source of water to provide for the on-going needs of a farming business.

Unrestricted drawdown from standpipes may compromise the rate of supply to landholders connected directly to the pipeline or townspeople. The Water Corporation aims to limit the daily flow from standpipes to 50 kL. Tank storage is encouraged in order to provide reserve capacity and limit drawdown directly from standpipes at peak times.

The location of standpipes in the Gnowangerup Shire is shown at Figure 4.

The Water Corporation reserves the right to close standpipes should supply to the system be compromised.
Step 4  Contact shire administration

The following process should be read in conjunction with the *Water deficiency declaration* guidelines at Appendix 1.

1  The shire administration receives a request for assistance from a group of at least five or six landholders in a 20 km radius who are having to travel 40 km or more in one direction to collect water for livestock, or are likely to do so in the following 14 days.

2  The shire administration contacts the local Department of Agriculture and Food district or regional office and requests assistance in conducting a survey of landholders in the district to determine the extent of water shortages and demand for water. The Department of Agriculture and Food, state and district response process is represented in the diagram shown at Appendices 2 and 3. A listing of the information provided from the survey of landholders is shown at Appendix 4.

3  The Department of Agriculture and Food carries out the survey of landholders and provides the results of the survey to the shire administration and the rural water planning program at the Department of Water.

4  If the survey confirms that five or six farmers or more in a localised area are travelling more than 40 km to cart water or are likely to do so within 14 days, then the shire administration can lodge an application for a *Water deficiency declaration* with the Department of Water.

Step 5  *Water deficiency declaration* — application process

1  The Department of Water receives a written application for a *Water deficiency declaration* from the shire administration. The application must include the results of the landholder survey, endorsed by the Department of Agriculture and Food.

2  The Department of Water consults with the Department of Agriculture and Food, shire administration and local landholders to confirm that all possible alternative water supplies in the local area have been accessed and exhausted.

3  Once satisfied that community water supply options have been fully utilised, the Department of Water assesses the application to ensure that the eligibility requirements have been met and that the landholders qualify for consideration of a declaration.

4  The Department of Water confirms support for the declaration from the Minister for Agriculture through the Department of Agriculture and Food NRM program.

5  Once all eligibility requirements for a *Water deficiency declaration* have been satisfied and the declaration is supported by the Department of Water, a recommendation for a declaration is submitted to the Minister for Water.
Step 6  

**Water deficiency declaration — arrangements**

1. Minister for Water approves the *Water deficiency declaration*.

2. The Department of Water identifies a suitable water receival point after consultation with the shire administration and local farming community and ensures site access is appropriate. Upgrades to access are made as appropriate.

3. The Department of Water then estimates weekly water requirements for livestock needs that are calculated from the landholder survey results provided by the Department of Agriculture and Food.

4. The Department of Water liaises with the Water Corporation regarding water sources from which emergency livestock water can be hauled. A suitable site is selected.

5. The Department of Water arranges quotes from suitable water haulage contractors to cart water to selected receival points from the water source nominated by the Water Corporation.

6. A water haulage contractor is then appointed by the Department of Water to line haul a nominated amount of water into the selected receival point.

7. The water haulage arrangements are then confirmed with the local farming community, shire administration, the haulage contractor, the Water Corporation and Department of Agriculture and Food.

8. The Department of Water liaises with the shire administration for signage to be erected at the receival point advising landholders that the water is for emergency livestock purposes only and is not suitable for human consumption. See Appendix 5 for the required wording of the sign.

9. A representative of local landholders is nominated to assist in monitoring water levels at approved receival point/s.

10. The Department of Water instructs the water haulage contractor to commence delivery of water to selected receival point/s.

11. The Department of Water monitors water levels at the receival point in consultation with a landholder representative.

12. Delivery of water by the water haulage contractor to be at a level not exceeding that approved in the haulage contract unless otherwise varied by Department of Water.
Step 6 *Water deficiency declaration* — arrangements continued...

13 The Department of Agriculture and Food to continue to monitor the water resource condition and potential demand through community consultation and report to the Department of Water and state NRM manager.

14 Water haulage will continue until on-farm supplies are sufficiently replenished and a decision is made by the Department of Water in consultation with the local landholder representative and the haulage contractor to cease operation.

15 Recommendation made by the Department of Water to Minister for Water to withdraw declaration. The haulage contract is then terminated.

16 The shire administration, Water Corporation, Department of Agriculture and Food and landholders’ representative are notified of the decision to withdraw the declaration.

A diagrammatic representation of the process that must be followed to gain a *Water deficiency declaration* is provided at Figure 2.
Figure 2 - Water deficiency declaration - Process

1. FARMERS
2. LOCAL GOVT.
3. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE and FOOD WA (DAFWA)
4. DAFWA WATER SURVEY
5. RURAL WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
6. MINISTER for WATER
7. Declaration Support
8. Approval
9. MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
10. WATER DEFICIENCY STATUS MONITORED
11. WATER DEFICIENCY DECLARATION REVOKED

WATER DEFICIENCY DECLARATION - IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS COORDINATION
- WATER CORPORATION
- WATER HAULAGE CONTRACTORS
- FARMERS
4. Strategic community

Figure 3 - Location of strategic community water supplies
water supplies
Description of community water source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Anderson’s Bores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location No/address</td>
<td>Anderson Road – Plantagenet Loc 5635 – Tambellup Shire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated reserve</td>
<td>Road reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northing</td>
<td>6226812N (bore 1) 6226411 (bore 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easting</td>
<td>588332E (bore 1) 588878 (bore 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure type</td>
<td>Equipped bores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standpipe (Y/N)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnaround area</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy vehicle access</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tank storage</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tank capacity</td>
<td>Two 90kL tanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pump</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean annual rainfall</td>
<td>360mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water quality</td>
<td>470mS/m – TDS 2585 mg/L or ppm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Bore A - pump enclosed in shed](image1)

![Storage tank for water from bore A.](image2)

![Road entry to bore A and turnaround area.](image3)

![Storage tank for water from bore B.](image4)
Location – Anderson’s Bores
Description of community water source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Borden Community Dam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location No/address</td>
<td>Magitup Road Borden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated reserve</td>
<td>21748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northing</td>
<td>6227797N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easting</td>
<td>615590E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dam capacity</td>
<td>30,000 cubic metres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure type</td>
<td>Earth dam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catchment type</td>
<td>CBH site and town streets and drains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catchment area (ha)</td>
<td>~ 7ha (CBH site) ~ 3.6ha (town streets and drains)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standpipe (Y/N)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnaround area</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy vehicle access</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tank storage</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pump</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean annual rainfall</td>
<td>370mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water quality</td>
<td>74 mS/m – TDS 407 mg/L or ppm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Location – Borden Community Dam
**Description of community water source**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Gnowellen Bore</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location No/address</td>
<td>Adjacent to Plantagenet location 6762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated reserve</td>
<td>Gnowellen Road reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northing</td>
<td>6198780N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easting</td>
<td>628718E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure type</td>
<td>Equipped bore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standpipe</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnaround area</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy vehicle access</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tank storage</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tank Capacity</td>
<td>90kL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pump</td>
<td>Electric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean annual rainfall</td>
<td>440mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water quality</td>
<td>447 mS/m – TDS 2458 mg/L or ppm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

View of bore and power source facing toward road reserve.

View of bore and power source with Stirling Ranges in background.

View of standpipe, and storage tank.
Location – Gnowellen Bore
Description of community water source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Mindarabin Community Dam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location No/address</td>
<td>Glen Road – Kojonup location 6678 – Kent Shire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated reserve</td>
<td>16268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northing</td>
<td>6263421N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easting</td>
<td>615714E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dam capacity</td>
<td>2270 cubic meters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure type</td>
<td>Earth dam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catchment type</td>
<td>Roaded catchment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catchment area</td>
<td>~5.3ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standpipe (Y/N)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnaround area</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy vehicle access</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tank storage</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pump</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean annual rainfall</td>
<td>360mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water quality</td>
<td>17mS/m – TDS 94 mg/L or ppm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

View of dam from catchment drain.  
Catchment drain leading to dam.  
Views of dam from entry road.  
Views of dam from entry road.
Location – Mindarabin Community Dam
**Description of community water source**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Toompup Community Dam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location No/address</td>
<td>Toompup Road south - Kent location 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated reserve</td>
<td>33769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northing</td>
<td>6235705N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easting</td>
<td>631082E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dam capacity</td>
<td>33,000 cubic metres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure type</td>
<td>Earth dam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catchment type</td>
<td>Gravel pit and natural bushland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catchment area</td>
<td>~14ha (gravel pit) and ~ 3ha (natural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standpipe (Y/N)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnaround area</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy vehicle access</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tank storage</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pump</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean annual rainfall</td>
<td>380mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water quality</td>
<td>36mS/m - TDS 198 mg/L or ppm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

View of silt pit and piped inlet to dam.

View of main storage dam.

Storage tank at turnaround area.

Standpipe adjacent to storage tank.
Location – Toompup Community Dam
## Appendices

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Objective
Declaration of ‘water deficiency’ is a Government response to safeguard the commercial interests of those farmers who do not have reasonable access to permanent water carting points, such as standpipes served by a Water Corporation piped water scheme.

‘Reasonable Access’ is defined as being within a 40 km radius of a suitable water source.

Guidelines for a Water deficiency declaration
Approved by the Ministers for Water Resources and Agriculture – 1 October 2001.

- A Water deficiency declaration process will be available in rural water zones 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, as shown in the map on the opposite page, and a declaration will require the state government to provide livestock quality water to within a 40 km radius of the declared properties.

- A shire council should make application for a Water deficiency declaration to the Department of Water after consultation with local representatives of the Department of Agriculture and Food. The application should indicate the extent of the water deficiency and a preferred method of providing water to the area.

- Criteria for declaration will be that a localised group of farmers are carting water (or plan to cart water within 14 days) from an off-farm source for a significant number of livestock, as a result of unusual seasonal conditions. (A localised group will usually consist of five or more commercial farmers within a 20 km radius, but may consist of a single farmer under special circumstances).

- Water provided under water deficiency arrangements will be charged for at existing rates; that is, at the local authority standpipe rate if sourced from a standpipe or free-of-charge from sources for which charges are not currently made.

- Carting water for domestic (household) use will not be a criterion for a Water deficiency declaration although, in some circumstances, the Rural Water Advisory Committee may recommend the provision of domestic (household) water in declared areas.

- Shire councils wishing to apply for a Water deficiency declaration should contact:

Manager Rural Water Planning
Department of Water
168 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA  6000

Telephone:  6364 6916
Freecall:  1800 780 300
Fax:  6364 6525
Figure A1 - Rural water zones

Map source is the Department of Water
**Resource condition**
Low rainfall year with limited runoff; low storage available in on-farm dams; below average rainfall forecast.

**Action trigger**
Landholders required to cart water off-farm; off-farm water sources greater than 40 kilometres from farm gate.

**Notification**
District manager to assess localised situation and notify Regional Director and State NRM manager;
Areal extent and potential number of landholders likely to be affected to be determined by district manager.
Co-ordination through District Office and State NRM manager. State NRM manager notifies manager Rural Water Planning, Department of Water.

**Shire response**
Landholders carting water to contact the local shire office. Shire office to contact the District Office of Department of Agriculture to request on-farm water supply surveys.

**Assess water deficiency and demand**
District Office of Department of Agriculture and Food to conduct on-farm water supply surveys. District Office of Department of Agriculture to assess condition of off-farm water resources (i.e. AA dams; community supplies). Survey results collated and provided to state NRM manager and Department of Water.

**Monitoring**
District Office to continue to monitor the water resource situation and provide feedback to landholders, state NRM manager and Department of Water until declaration is rescinded.

**Recommendation**
Based on survey data and letters of support, a recommendation for declaration of water deficiency within the shire is made by Minister for Agriculture to the Minister for Water for approval.

**Request for declaration**
If recommended, a letter requesting declaration sent to Department of Water by shire.

**Reporting**
Recommendation made to shire from Department of Agriculture & Food.
**Water deficiency declaration Process - District Response**

**Environmental Trigger**
Low rainfall/low runoff event in years proceeding Low/no runoff rain in the last 6 months.

**Action Trigger**
Farmers notify district office on water shortages, water carting, lineups at standpipes etc.

**Official shire Request**
Shire Council requests the Department of Agriculture and Food to undertake Water Deficiency Survey in for shire or mailing areas of shire.

**Water Deficiency Surveys**
Department of Agriculture and Food completes a one page survey mailout with fax back and mailing address. Ensure a clear cut off date for surveys, of less than 2 weeks from the request for information from the shire.

**Collation of Data & Mapping**
Collate and interpret the information (spreadsheet) and provide maps of properties affected and condition of local water resources (i.e. AA dams & Standpipe access).

**Letter of Support**
Write a formal letter to the shire who requested the survey to tell them the local office of the Department of Agriculture and Food either does or does not support a Water deficiency declaration and on what grounds. Include the spreadsheet of support data and any GIS mapping for the area.

**Monitor Situation**
Monitor the situation and work with the shires if more surveys are needed the district officer may be requested to survey dam levels of AA dams. Establish good communications with the local Water Corporation representatives to ascertain when and where standpipe restrictors are being applied or where standpipes may be closed. Try to estimate demand at each standpipe if possible. The Department of Agriculture and Food interpret data at a local level and provide feedback from local intelligence.

**Notification**
Notify the manager Rural Water Planning, Department of Water, manager of Farm Business Development, Manager Farmwater (NRM) of the impending request for Declaration and the current situation and provide feedback on on-going declarations and seasonal conditions.
Headings/questions to appear in landholder survey

1  District name
2  Landholder name
3  Address
4  Phone number
5  Contact person
6  Location numbers
7  AgPacs number
8  Do you anticipate running short of water for stock?
9  What month will you commence carting livestock water?
10 Number of livestock carting water for?
11 Stock type – sheep, cattle, pigs?
12 Number of livestock carting water for after planned sales or purchases?
13 Do you anticipate running short of water for houses?
14 What month will you commence carting house water?
15 Number of people in house/s
16 How many gardens do you maintain?
17 Do you anticipate running short of spray water?
18 What month will you commence carting spray water?
19 Distance to key community dam or standpipe?
20 Location of key community dam or standpipe?
21 How much water can you carry at one time?
The water stored in this dam has been provided by the Department of Water as a source of emergency farm water only under a Water deficiency declaration issued by the Minister for Water on xx xx 20xx.

The water is suitable for all classes of livestock, but is not suitable for human consumption.

Persons using water from this source do so at their own risk.

The State of Western Australia, its agents, authorities, instrumentalities and their agents or servants accept no liability for any loss of or damage to property or machinery or for death or injury to any person in any way arising out of the use of this water supply point or the consumption or use of this water.