The plan to protect Leonora’s drinking water
The Department of Water has developed a drinking water source protection plan to protect the quality of water in the Leonora Water Reserve and to help ensure a reliable, safe, good quality drinking water supply to consumers. The Leonora Water Reserve drinking water source protection plan was completed in 2010. This plan defines the boundary of the Leonora Water Reserve and considers water quality risks and recommends management strategies to address them. It also identifies priority areas and protection zones in the water reserve to guide land use planning and development.

What are the risks to Leonora’s water quality?
The main land uses in the Leonora Water Reserve are pastoral grazing and mining tenements. Some of the water quality risks associated with these land uses/activities are:
- pathogens and nutrients from people and animal waste
- hydrocarbons from vehicles via spills and leaks of fuel
- hydrocarbons and chemicals from mining or mineral exploration activities
- pathogens and hydrocarbons/chemicals infiltrating through abandoned drill holes and wells.

How can we manage these water quality risks?
Recommended actions to help protect Leonora’s water supply are to:
- proclaim the amended Leonora Water Reserve under the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 (WA)
- promote best management practices in the water reserve
- investigate options to infill or seal abandoned drill holes and wells
- erect signs to make people aware of the water reserve boundary and why it is important to protect it.

What am I allowed to do in the catchment area?
All existing, approved land uses and activities are able to continue. We encourage land owners and managers to adopt best management practices to protect the quality of this drinking water source.

We also have a range of publications that provide advice on best management practices. See Want to know more? on the back of this brochure.

New developments, or expansion of existing land uses or activities, will need to consider the priority areas, protection zones and recommendations in the Leonora Water Reserve drinking water source protection plan; our Water quality protection note no. 25: Land use compatibility in public drinking water source areas; and State Planning Policy 2.7 Public drinking water source policy.
Working together to protect drinking water

Drinking water source protection plans are developed by the Department of Water in consultation with local communities, state and local government agencies, water service providers (such as the Water Corporation) and other interested stakeholders.

The support we receive from stakeholders through the development and implementation of these plans greatly assists in ensuring the ongoing availability of safe drinking water, now and in the future. Ultimately, the quality of water provided to consumers depends on everyone working together to keep the water reserve clean.

There are over 150 proclaimed drinking water sources in Western Australia. We have completed approximately 100 drinking water source protection plans so far.

Want to know more?

Further information can be found at <http://www.water.wa.gov.au> then select > Publications > Find a publication > Series browse and click on:

- Water resource protection plans for a copy of the Leonora Water Reserve drinking water source protection plan
- Water quality awareness, Water quality protection guidelines or Water quality protection notes for information on best management practices to help protect water quality.

Alternatively, contact us if you would like information to be mailed to you.

To find out more about how we protect drinking water, visit <http://drinkingwater.water.wa.gov.au>.