



Wellington Reservoir allocation statement

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has reviewed the allocation limit for Wellington Reservoir. The new limit in this statement replaces the allocation limit for Wellington Reservoir that was set in the 2009 *Upper Collie water allocation plan*.

Since the release of the plan, rainfall has declined by 6 per cent¹ and streamflow by almost 40 per cent². Our new modelling of water availability from Wellington Reservoir indicates that the current limit of 85.1 gigalitres per year will become increasingly unreliable due to the changing climate. Reducing the allocation limit to 68 gigalitres per year improves the level of reliability for current users.

We have consulted with the current licence holder and other stakeholders about this change. Further details on the modelling supporting the decision to reduce the allocation limit is provided in *Wellington Reservoir modelling: re-evaluating the yield and salinity levels under a changing climate* and the *Myalup-Wellington Water for Food proposal*. These reports are available on the department's website.

The revised allocation limit does not result in any changes to the downstream environmental objectives or winter release arrangements, which are documented in the 2015 *Lower Collie surface water allocation plan*.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation will:

- continue to engage with stakeholders about changes to rainfall and streamflow
- encourage a sustainable and adaptive approach to water management
- regularly evaluate water management arrangements for Wellington Reservoir.

For further information, please contact our South West Region in Bunbury, phone 08 9726 4111.

Table 1 New allocation limit for Wellington reservoir

Subarea	Surface water resource	Allocation limit (gigalitres per year)			Water currently licensed (gigalitres per year)	Water available for licensing (gigalitres per year)
		General component	Public water supply	Unlicensed use		
Collie River Central	Wellington Reservoir	68	0	0	68	0

¹ The 2009–2017 average rainfall compared with 1975–2008 at Collie Townsite.

² The 2009–2017 average streamflow compared with 1975–2008 at Mungalup Tower gauging station.