Where does Seabird’s drinking water come from?

Seabird’s drinking water comes from two bores located just to the east of town in a Water Corporation owned and fenced compound. The bores are about 95 m deep, and draw water from the confined Leederville aquifer. The Seabird Water Reserve is the area declared to protect the bores from immediate contamination threats.

Where is the Seabird Water Reserve?

The Department of Water has developed a drinking water source protection review to protect the quality of water in the Seabird Water Reserve and to help ensure a reliable, safe, good quality drinking water supply. The Seabird Water Reserve drinking water source protection review discusses changes since the publication of the Seabird Water Reserve water source protection plan in 1997. These documents should be read in conjunction. The major change is that we have reduced the boundary of the Seabird Water Reserve, now excluding all of the private landowners.

What are the risks to Seabird’s drinking water quality?

Water quality contamination risks to Seabird’s water supply are negligible because there is a confining layer of rock about 10 m thick and over 25 m deep that protects the groundwater in the Leederville aquifer from above-ground land uses. The only risk we need to manage is from other bores drilled nearby into the same aquifer. If not constructed properly, these can become a conduit for surface contamination. Therefore all bores that reach the Leederville aquifer need to be licensed and meet minimum bore construction requirements.

The plan to protect Seabird’s drinking water

Recommended actions to help protect Seabird’s water supply include:

- proclaiming the Seabird Water Reserve under the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947
- incorporating the Seabird Water Reserve boundary into the Shire of Gingin’s local planning scheme
- maintaining fencing and signs around the compound to prevent unauthorised access
- Leederville bores to be licensed and adhere to minimum bore construction requirements.
Working together to protect drinking water

Drinking water source protection documents 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 reliable, safe, good quality drinking water sources now and in the future. Ultimately, the quality of water provided to consumers depends on everyone working together to keep the catchment clean.

There are more than 130 drinking water sources in WA. We have completed more than 110 drinking water source protection plans for these sources, so far.

Want to know more?

If you would like a copy of the Seabird Water Reserve drinking water source protection review (2011) or the Seabird Water Reserve drinking water source protection plan (1997) go to www.water.wa.gov.au > Publications > Find a publication > Series browse > Water resource protection plans or contact us for a copy to be posted to you.

To read about best management practices to help protect water quality, go to www.water.wa.gov.au > Publications > Find a publication > Series browse > Water quality protection guidelines, water quality protection notes, water quality awareness brochures and information sheets.

To find out more about how we protect drinking water, visit our website http://drinkingwater.water.wa.gov.au/ or contact us.

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