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 also implementation of these plans greatly assists in ensuring the ongoing availability of reliable, safe, good quality drinking water source 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 134 drinking water sources in Western Australia servicing towns and cities. We have completed 119 drinking water source protection reports to date for these sources. We will continue to prepare, implement and review these drinking water source protection reports, consistent with the Australian drinking water guidelines 6, 2004 to protect public health.

Want to know more?

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

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.
A new source for Woodridge’s drinking water

Woodridge's drinking water comes from a single bore commissioned by the Water Corporation in 2010. The bore draws water from a confined aquifer. As there is a confining layer of impermeable rock present between the water source and the land uses above it, there is a low risk of this source becoming contaminated. This means Woodridge's drinking water is supplied from a source that is naturally protected from nitrates, and other potential contaminants, originating from above-ground land uses.

Two of the original bores in the superficial aquifer may temporarily supply drinking water as emergency backups for the main bore. For this reason, the boundary of the Woodridge Water Reserve remains unchanged from the 1997 plan. The water reserve will help protect the superficial aquifer from contamination threats in the immediate recharge area of the two original bores.

The major change is that Woodridge’s drinking water is now sourced from the Leederville aquifer.

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

The main risk to water quality in the Leederville aquifer is the potential for improperly constructed bores drilled into the Leederville aquifer becoming conduits for surface contamination.

The main land uses in the Woodridge Water Reserve are market gardens and rural-residential properties. Some of the water quality risks to the superficial aquifer associated with these land use include:

- pathogens and nutrients from people and animal wastes
- nutrients from fertilisers
- unauthorised access to the Water Corporation’s bore compounds and treatment plant.

How can we manage these water quality risks?

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

- incorporating the Woodridge Water Reserve boundary into the Shire of Gingin’s local planning scheme
- maintaining fencing and signage around the compound to prevent unauthorised access
- licensing bores drilled into the Leederville aquifer, with requirements for minimum bore construction standards.

What am I allowed to do in the water reserve?

Existing, approved land uses and activities can continue. We encourage land owners and managers to adopt best management practices. See Want to know more? on the back of this brochure.

We have a range of publications that provide advice on best management practices. See Looking after all our water needs for more information.

New developments, or expansion of existing land uses or activities will need to consider the priority areas, protection zones and recommendations in the Water quality protection note no. 25: Land use compatibility in public drinking water source areas.