The Department of Water publishes papers to inform the community, including water quality protection notes, environmental guidelines and brochures. These documents promote awareness about water quality issues, the impacts of land use and, most importantly, measures that can be taken to prevent harm to Western Australia’s precious water resources.

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Feedback
We welcome your thoughts and suggestions on these publications. We aim to regularly update them and make them as useful as possible, which in turn will improve the level of protection we can provide for Western Australia’s precious water resources.

Please email us at <waterquality@water.wa.gov.au> or contact us via the above information.
Water quality protection notes

Water quality protection notes present considered views on water issues, catchment land use and best environmental management practice. They offer solutions to manage contamination risks to water resources. The recommendations given allow for innovation and will be updated as feedback occurs or environmental practices change.

Water quality protection notes are informal documents and do not involve extensive stakeholder consultation. They are neither policy documents nor regulatory instruments. Instead, they provide upfront, information and good examples on how the department may respond to a topic.

There are over 60 water quality protection notes available on the Department of Water website. Topics covered include:

- land use activities such as aquaculture, orchards and stockyards
- activities in public drinking water source areas such as land use compatibility, subdivision and rezoning
- best practice such as dewatering, vegetation buffers and liners for ponds.

Environmental guidelines and codes

These documents are prepared in consultation with other government agencies and industry. They are printed documents, often based on existing protection notes. They offer broad environmental advice on best management practices relating to industrial, commercial and urban activities.

Codes and guidelines are a product of extensive research and consultation between all relevant stakeholders. For efficiency and clarity of government interaction with the state’s economy, our preference is for codes of practice owned and overseen by industry, which meet Western Australia's environmental needs.

There are more than 15 codes or guidelines available on our website. Topics covered include:

- horse facilities and activities
- mining and mineral processing
- poultry farms
- turf management.

Awareness brochures

Awareness brochures are designed to provide a brief and informative overview of a single topic. They provide helpful, non-technical information on water resource management topics which may affect the community. They also include information on where more detailed advice can be found. Examples of our brochures include:

- Australian drinking water guidelines
- Living and working in public drinking water source areas
- Mundaring weir reservoir protection zone
- Mount Peron and Leeman (Midway) water reserves.