Protecting your drinking water

Drinking water source protection plans are developed by the Department of Water in consultation with local communities, state and local government and other interested stakeholders. Government bodies such as the Department of Health and water service providers such as the Water Corporation are also consulted.

The Department of Water aims to publish protection plans for all of the 145 drinking water sources throughout Western Australia. So far more than 90 of these protection plans have been published.

The support we receive from local communities, state and local government authorities and other interested stakeholders, for both the preparation and implementation of these protection plans, greatly assists in ensuring the availability of a reliable safe, good quality drinking water now and in the future.

How to obtain a copy of the Newman Water Reserve drinking water source protection plan

If you would like to view this protection plan please visit <http://drinkingwater.water.wa.gov.au/> and then scroll down to the link for drinking water source protection plans and assessments. If you are unable to access the internet, please call the Department of Water to arrange for a copy of the plan to be posted to you.

Where can I get more information?

A range of other publications, such as water quality protection notes, policies and guidelines, are produced by the department’s Water Source Protection staff. To access these resources please go to <http://drinkingwater.water.wa.gov.au/> then scroll down and click on the relevant link.

Feedback

We welcome your comments and suggestions on the issues raised in this brochure and the associated drinking water source protection plan. Ultimately the quality of water provided to consumers will depend on everyone working together.

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Looking after all our water needs

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Drinking water source protection plans

The Department of Water protects and manages public drinking water source areas in Western Australia. This involves developing and implementing policies and plans based on the *Australian drinking water guidelines*, 2004 multiple barrier framework. The first barrier is the drinking water source, followed by barriers at the storage, treatment and distribution points of drinking water supply system.

A drinking water source protection plan has now been developed for the Newman Water Reserve. Water quality risks have been identified with the community’s help and management strategies for tackling them have been recommended.

Newman Water Reserve

Land use

The main land uses in Newman Water Reserve are:
- Mining and associated industries
- Newman town site
- Animal grazing.

Mt Whaleback mine site facilities.

While it will be possible for all existing, legally-established land uses to continue, there is a need for those involved to adopt management practices designed to protect the quality of this drinking water source. New developments or expansion of existing land uses need to consider the recommendations in the Newman Water Reserve drinking water source protection plan.

For more guidance on appropriate land uses refer to the water quality protection note: *Land use compatibility in public drinking water source areas*, produced by the Department of Water. To do this please visit <http://drinkingwater.water.wa.gov.au/> and then scroll down to the link for water quality protection notes. If you are unable to access the internet please call the Department of Water to arrange for a copy of the note to be posted to you.

Contamination

Drinking water source protection plans identify sources of potential water contamination. The main water quality risks for the Newman Water Reserve are:
- hydrocarbons and chemicals from mining activities
- pathogen contamination from stock grazing
- hydrocarbon and chemicals from the Newman town site
- pathogen contamination from various wastewater treatment systems within the water reserve.

Following careful assessment of all potential contamination risks, recommendations have been made whose implementation will ensure the long-term protection of this vital water supply. The main recommendations are to:
- de-proclaim the existing boundary of the water reserve and reproclaim the amended boundary under the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947*
- incorporate the water reserve into the Shire of East Pilbara’s local planning scheme to ensure that future land uses are compatible with a drinking water protection objective
- promote best practice management to protect the water source
- relocate potentially contaminating high risk activities outside wellhead protection zones in the water reserve.

Drinking water production bore V18.