Protecting your drinking water

These 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 150 drinking water sources throughout Western Australia. So far more than 90 of these 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 safe, good quality drinking water now and in the future.

How to obtain a copy of the Millstream Catchment Area (Bridgetown) 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, select Waterways health > Drinking Water, then scroll down and click on the relevant link or contact the department’s Water Source Protection staff on 08 6364 7600.

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.

Millstream Catchment Area (Bridgetown)
Bridgetown regional water supply
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 6, 2004 multiple barrier framework. The first and most important barrier is the drinking water catchment or recharge area, followed by barriers at the storage, treatment and distribution points of the drinking water supply system.

A drinking water source protection plan has now been developed for the Millstream Catchment Area (Bridgetown). It identifies the risks to the water quality and recommends strategies for managing them.

Millstream Catchment Area (Bridgetown)

Land use

The main land uses in the Millstream Catchment Area (Bridgetown) are state forest and recreation.

While it will be possible for all existing, legally-established land uses and activities 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 and activities will need to consider the Millstream Catchment Area protection plan’s recommendations.

For more guidance on appropriate land uses please refer to the Department of Water’s Water quality protection note 25: Land use compatibility in public drinking water source areas. 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 Millstream Catchment Area (Bridgetown) are:

- turbidity from erosion of soil
- pathogen contamination from the presence of humans and domestic animals
- contamination from spills and leaks of fuels and other chemicals
- contamination from herbicide and pesticide usage

Following careful assessment of all potential contamination risks, recommendations have been made to ensure the long-term protection of this vital water supply. The main recommendations are to:

- proclaim the amended catchment area boundaries under the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947
- incorporate the plan into the local planning schemes of the shires of Nannup and Donnybrook-Balingup to ensure that future land uses in the catchment area are compatible
- install more signs to make people aware of the catchment area boundaries.