The plan to protect Carnarvon’s drinking water

The Department of Water has developed an updated drinking water source protection plan to protect the quality of water in the Carnarvon Water Reserve and to help ensure a reliable, safe, good quality drinking water supply. The Carnarvon Water Reserve drinking water source protection plan discusses water quality risks and recommends management strategies to address them. It also identifies priority areas and protection zones, which help guide decisions on what land uses and activities, should occur in the water reserve to protect water quality.

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

The main land uses in the Carnarvon Water Reserve are pastoral grazing and sand mining. Some of the water quality risks associated with these activities are:

- pathogens from animal manure in close proximity to bores
- contamination from spills and leaks of fuels and other hydrocarbons/chemicals.

How can we manage these water quality risks?

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

- The Shire of Carnarvon’s District Zoning Scheme No. 11 should incorporate this plan and reflect the proclaimed Carnarvon Water Reserve boundary as a special control area (special use).
- All development proposals within the Carnarvon Water Reserve that are inconsistent with the Department of Water’s Water quality protection note no. 25: Land use compatibility in public drinking water source areas should be referred to us.
- Mining tenement conditions for the protection of water quality should be amended to include further conditions for the protection of water quality.

What am I allowed to do in the water reserve?

All existing, approved land uses and activities are able to continue. We encourage land owners and managers to adopt best management practices to protect the quality of this important drinking water source.

We have a range of publications that provide advice on best management practices. See Want to know more? on the back of this brochure.

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

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

There are over 150 drinking water sources in WA. We have completed around 100 drinking water source protection plans for these sources, so far.

Want to know more?

Further information can be found at <http://www.water.wa.gov.au> then select > Publications > Find a publication > Series browse and click on:

- Water resource protection plans for a copy of the Carnarvon Water Reserve drinking water source protection plan
- Water quality awareness, Water quality protection guidelines or Water quality protection notes for information on best management practices to help protect water quality.

Alternatively, contact us if you would like information to be mailed to you.

To find out more about how we protect drinking water, visit <http://drinkingwater.water.wa.gov.au>.