The plan to protect Ocean Farms’s drinking water

The Department of Water has developed a drinking water source protection plan to protect the quality of water in the Nilgen Water Reserve and to help ensure a reliable, safe, good quality drinking water supply. The Nilgen 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 Ocean Farms Estate’s drinking water quality?

The main land uses in the Nilgen Water Reserve are rural and rural-residential properties. Some of the water quality risks associated with these land uses are:

- pathogens and nutrients from septic tanks and animal excreta
- hydrocarbons from vehicles via spills and leaks of fuel
- nutrients from fertiliser
- pesticides and other chemicals from agricultural land uses.

How can we manage these water quality risks?

Recommended actions to help protect Ocean Farms’s water supply include:

- to proclaim the Nilgen Water Reserve under the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 (WA)
- to incorporate the Nilgen Water Reserve boundary into the Shire of Gingin’s local planning scheme
- landowners and managers to adopt best management practices in the water reserve
- put signs in place to make people aware of the water reserve boundary and why it is important to protect the 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 Nilgen Water Reserve drinking water source protection plan and our Water quality protection note no. 25: Land use compatibility in public drinking water source areas.

Where does Ocean Farms Estate’s drinking water come from?

Ocean Farms Estate is a small settlement in Nilgen. Ocean Farms’s drinking water comes from a bore located within the estate. The bore draws groundwater from an unconfined aquifer. As there is no confining layer of impermeable rock or soil between the water source and the land uses above it, contaminants are able to infiltrate this source. The Nilgen Water Reserve boundary has been determined based on the recharge area for the bores and consideration of surrounding land uses and ownership. A recharge area is the land over which water infiltrates into the ground to replenish the aquifer.

Where is the Nilgen Water Reserve?
Looking after all our water needs

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Government of Western Australia
Department of Water

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 water 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 Nilgen 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>.

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