



The Department of Water supports Western Australia's community, economy and environment by managing water sustainably. We use our expertise and great science to deliver a range of key water resource management services including licensing, water assessment, allocation and supply planning, urban water management and water industry regulation. We also deliver strategic priority projects that respond to opportunities and generate new and innovative solutions for water management.

Water for Food

This \$40 million program will expand the area available for irrigated agriculture and enable Western Australian fresh food and animal protein production to increase.

Eleven projects are under way: Bonaparte Plains, Fitzroy Valley groundwater investigation, Knowsley Agricultural Area water investigation, La Grange West Canning groundwater project, Land Tenure, Middle Gascoyne water investigations, Midlands groundwater and land assessment, Mowanjum irrigation trial, Myalup - Wellington, Southern Forests water futures and Water information conversion.

Key deliverables in 2015 - 2016 are:

- Conduct a rigorous water resource investigation in the West Kimberley including extensive drilling and monitoring and airborne electromagnetic surveys.
- Establish an irrigation trial at Mowanjum Pastoral station, serving as a model for other Aboriginal pastoral stations in the Kimberley.
- Evaluate innovative options to increase demand for fit-for-purpose water from Wellington Dam.

Water for Growth

The Department of Water works to ensure government and industry have timely knowledge of resources suitable for drinking water supply, agriculture, mining and industry in areas where it is most needed.

To achieve this in 2015-16 we will:

- Review and update the Water for Growth publication to reflect latest data and procedures and outline the long term vision for water in Western Australia.
- Undertake innovative groundwater investigations in priority growth areas across the state including the Perth Region, Dampier Peninsula, West Canning Basin, the Hamersley Range valleys, East Murchison, South Coast and South West.
- Complete Murchison palaeochannel and Dampier peninsula water availability maps.
- Provide expert advice about water supply options.
- Complete the Kwinana Western Trade Coast water supply strategy and the Perth-Peel regional water demand and supply outlook.
- Publish our water demand outlook reports for urban and industry sectors and highlight priority water demand areas and supply options for these sectors.

Our strategic directions



Excellent water information, science and communication



Contemporary water policy and regulation



Effective and adaptive management and use of water



Liveable communities and healthy water environments



Strong Partnerships to champion better water outcomes and solutions



Great customer service through capable people, systems and efficient business processes

Fast facts

Some key numbers as at 30 June 2015:

- 12 735 water licences and permits to take water administered
- 4439 data reports provided through the Water Information Reporting portal
- 3476 gigalitres of water licensed
- 3150 water licences and permits issued
- 3200 water management sites providing essential information on factors impacting water quality and availability
- 127 drinking water source protection plans developed covering all of the state's drinking water source areas
- 22 water allocation reports developed covering approximately 60 per cent of water management areas across the state, including all of the highest use areas

Water Reform

We will:

- Continue to develop legislation that will reform water resources management in Western Australia.
- Introduce new management tools that will improve our ability to manage water resources in the context of a growing population, greater demand for water and a changing climate.
- Work closely with stakeholders and key water user groups to develop policies and supporting regulations.

Water in the urban landscape

We will:

- Provide expertise to support the Strategic Assessment of the Perth Peel region and the Better Urban Water Management framework.
- Provide advice and technical guidance on water resources, drainage, flood management and water services for better urban water management.
- Continue our important work in priority regional communities, aquifers, rivers and estuaries including Peel-Harvey and Vasse-Geographe.
- Partner with the Cooperative Research Centre for Water-Sensitive Cities and others to improve water resilience, sustainability and liveability in our cities and towns.

Water Online

The \$13.6M Water Online program will continue to deliver great customer service. In 2015-16 we will introduce new technology to enable licensing customers to:

- register as a user
- apply for, amend or transfer a water licence or permit; and
- submit meter readings in accordance with their licence.

We will continue to build on these technologies throughout 2015-16 including managing, assessing, approving and tracking of all licensing and compliance matters. They will directly contribute to the objectives of the department's REFOCUS program which is designed to improve service delivery and customer response times.

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