Protecting your drinking water sources

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 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.

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How to obtain a copy of the Yerecoin 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 click 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.

Water supply tanks in the Yerecoin Water Reserve.

Cover: View of the Yerecoin well field
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 multiple barrier framework. The first and most important barrier is at the drinking water source, followed by barriers at the storage, treatment and distribution points of a drinking water supply system.

A drinking water source protection plan has now been developed for the Yerecoin Water Reserve. Water quality risks have been identified and management strategies for tackling them have been recommended.

Yerecoin Water Reserve

Land use

The main land uses in the Yerecoin Water Reserve are:
• broad acre cropping
• animal grazing.

Cropping activities in the Yerecoin Water Reserve.

While it will be possible for all existing, approved 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 or activities will need to consider the recommendations in the Yerecoin 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 click 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 potential water quality risks for the Yerecoin Water Reserve are:
• pesticide contamination
• nutrients from fertilisers
• micro-organism contamination from animal excreta.

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 include:
• proclaiming the water reserve under the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947
• incorporating the proposed Yerecoin Water Reserve into the Shire of Victoria Plain’s local planning scheme to ensure that future land uses in the water reserve are compatible
• current land uses within the water reserve adopting best practice management to protect the water source.

Groundwater bore in the Yerecoin well field.

Row of water supply spears in the Yerecoin well field.