

Logue Brook Dam ~ Water Corporation Offsets Statement

Introduction

The Water Corporation has agreed to a water trade with Harvey Water involving 17.1 gigalitres of water from sources controlled by the irrigation company. This 17.1 gigalitres of water is part of a proposed three-part package of water source development that will result in 107 gigalitres of new water into the Integrated Water Supply Scheme by the end of 2009. A critical and final part of the trade with Harvey Water is 5.3 gigalitres of water from Logue Brook Dam.

However, for the Corporation to take and use water from this source for drinking water purposes, an appropriate Water Source Protection Plan for the Logue Brook catchment must be developed and implemented. This proviso is entirely consistent with the requirements of existing Corporation policies and the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. The Corporation believes it is also consistent with the expectations of the community, the WA Government and its relevant departments.

In practice, the source protection plan must include a stipulation that recreational activities will cease on the water body and be restricted within the catchment. The Corporation will not take water from Logue Brook Dam without this protection in place.

The fundamental issue relating to safe drinking water, and the Corporation's position on stringent water body and catchment protection for drinking water sources, is explained in further detail in its *Harvey Water Trade – Logue Brook Dam Position Statement*.

Offsets – Corporation position and commitments

In stating its position above, the Water Corporation recognises the impact on recreational activities and that the loss of Logue Brook Dam would put additional pressure on other nearby recreational facilities. However, it believes a whole of Government approach is required to determine

the ability of this State to provide appropriate recreational amenity to the broader community.

The forested catchments at Samson, Stirling and Logue Brook dams provide good quality drinking water and are the focus of the Corporation's water trading opportunities. Other nearby surface water bodies and catchments will not be affected into the future by this focus.

The Corporation's view is that for the Logue Brook water trade to go ahead existing recreational activities on the water body or within its catchment should be transferred to the nearby Drakes Brook, Harvey and Waroona irrigation dams. The Corporation's 50-year Source Development Plan does not envisage the use of these irrigation sources for drinking water supply.

Further, the Corporation will back its commitment with input from its various specialists and a significant monetary allocation to ensure that all recreational options for these three dams are fully explored.

Essentially, the Corporation will:

- Work with a committee of relevant State and local government authorities to determine the best mix of recreation at the above three facilities and elsewhere in the shires of Waroona and Harvey.
- Commit to assisting with the funding required for the investigation work, community consultation and report preparation required for the committee to undertake its work.
- Commit to assisting with the funding for infrastructure needs required to implement enhanced recreational facilities at the sites.

The funding commitment would be in the form of a \$1 million allocation from the Corporation to a Trust Fund to be established for this purpose. The funding would be made available following advice to the Corporation of PI protection priority for Logue Brook Dam to enable it to be accessed for drinking water supply.