



Media Statement

01 July, 2008

Nabawa's drinking water source is now protected

The Department of Water has prepared a drinking water source protection plan that assesses risks to water quality within the Nabawa Water Reserve, and recommends management strategies to minimise or manage those risks.

Nabawa is located in the Chapman River Valley approximately 35 km north-east of Geraldton in Western Australia. The local community was invited to have a say in the development of the plan to ensure the continued availability of safe, good quality drinking water. The draft plan was released for public comment in April.

The department's Director of Water Resource Management, John Ruprecht, said the *Nabawa Water Reserve drinking water source protection plan* was part of a strategy that aimed to protect drinking water sources throughout Western Australia.

"This is an important issue for the town of Nabawa," Mr Ruprecht said.

"It is vital that the community understands how this water reserve works, how it should be managed and how they can help protect it from existing and future contamination risks.

"The plan, prepared in consultation with landowners, the Shire of Chapman Valley and the Water Corporation, outlines the location of the drinking water reserve, existing and future usage of the water source and potential sources of contamination."

Nabawa's drinking water supply comes from three production bores within the Nabawa Water Reserve. This reserve was proclaimed in 1990 under the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* for the purpose of protecting the public drinking water source from potential contamination. The water reserve extends over an area of about 1.4 kilometres.

The drinking water source protection plan:

- identifies potential drinking water quality contamination risks from land use activities
- recommends strategies to manage potential risks while recognising the rights of landowners to continue approved established land uses
- makes recommendations to improve protection in the reserve to ensure good quality water supply in the long term
- recommends wellhead protection zones be proclaimed around the production bores and
- recommends priority classification areas to ensure an appropriate level of protection from inappropriate land use developments.

Copies can be obtained from the Department of Water on (08) 6364 7600 or by visiting <http://portal.water.wa.gov.au/portal/page/portal/WaterManagement/Publications/PlansandAssessments>

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