



Media Statement

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Protecting the culture and environment with La Grange water plan

Meeting new demand for regional development, while protecting the environment and cultural heritage of the La Grange area; is a goal of a new water management plan for the area south of Broome.

Released by the Department of Water – the draft *La Grange groundwater sub area water management plan – allocation* – invites feedback from the public.

Announcing the draft plan, the department's regional manager for the Kimberley, Dave Munday, said that while current demand for groundwater resources from the area was low, it had the potential to increase through pastoral diversification and expansion of the mining industry.

The La Grange groundwater area covers the western portion of the Canning Basin. The coastal ground water, currently used for pastoralism, tourism and mining, also sustains significant wetlands and areas of cultural value – particularly to the region's Traditional Owners.

Mr Munday said three sites were Ramsar listed wetland zones - Eighty Mile Beach (including Anna Plains), Mandora Marshes and Roebuck Bay. In particular, Mandora Marsh area supported the most inland mangrove community in Australia.

"The subarea contains a number of recognised sites of cultural value, with the local Indigenous people having a strong existing connection with the entire landscape and its underlying water" Mr Munday said.

"It shows how water is currently managed, and how access to water will be managed in the future in order to support the broader community and environmental needs."

"The draft has been developed to give the water users and the wider community the opportunity to provide feedback to the department on our approach to this groundwater management."

"I encourage all stakeholders to provide comments at this important stage. It will help us achieve the right balance between the productive use of this water and conserving precious natural resources."

The draft plan, can be accessed from the department's website at www.water.wa.gov.au/allocationplanning, the Broome Public Library, or by telephoning the Department of Water on: 08 6364 7600.

The Department of Water manages and regulates Western Australia's water resources in consultation with other government agencies, key water user groups and the community.

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